




Inside **DANNY DAVIS:**
"I'VE BECOME A LETHAL WEAPON!"

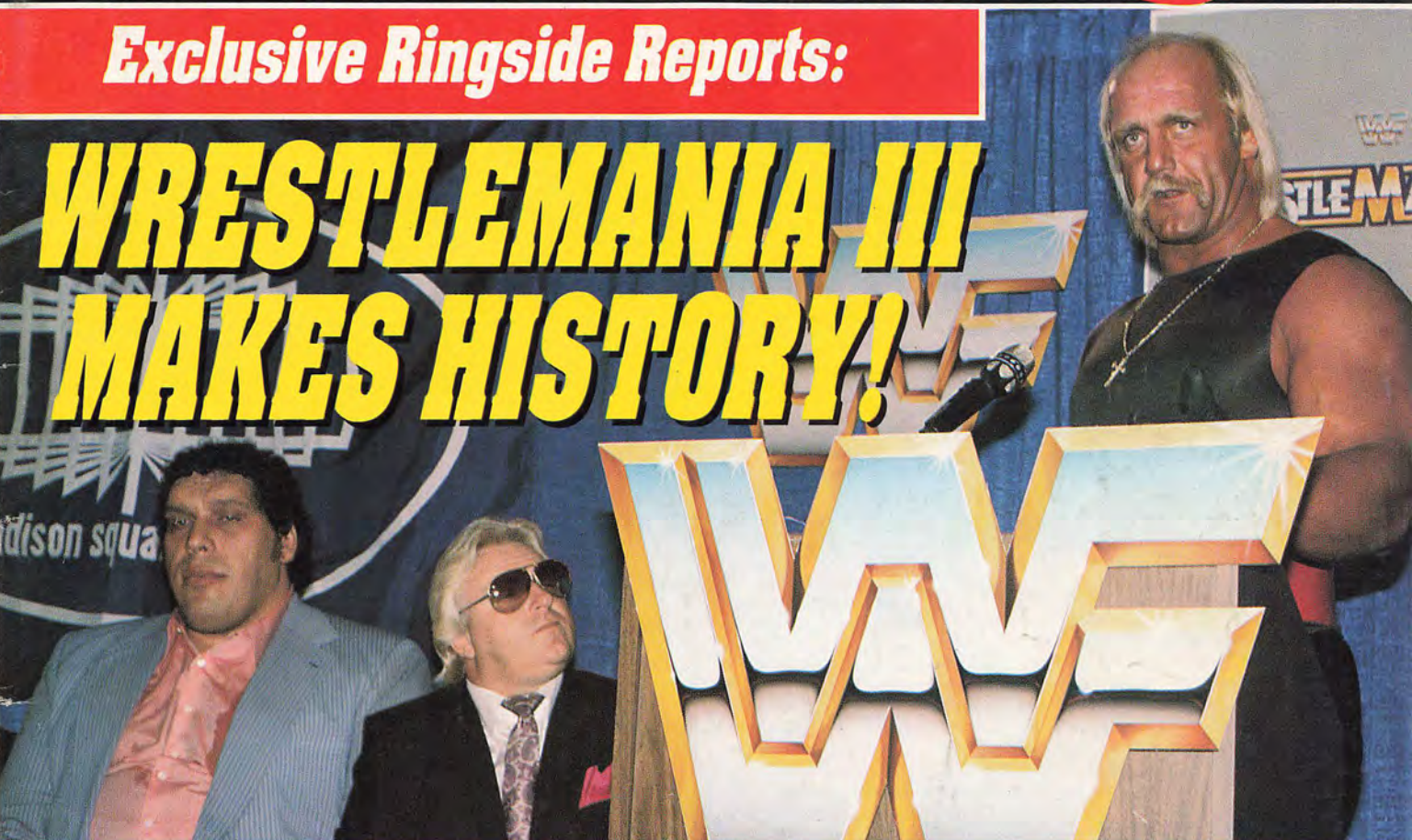
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Wrestling

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Exclusive Ringside Reports:

WRESTLEMANIA III MAKES HISTORY!



Rockin' Round The Clock:
WILL THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
BURN THEMSELVES OUT?

New Promoter, New Look, New Champion:
MIKE ROTUNDO WINS
THE FLORIDA TITLE!



ONE ON ONE:
OLE ANDERSON
VS.
ARN ANDERSON

Ted DiBiase's
Inner Rage:

OVERLOOKED,
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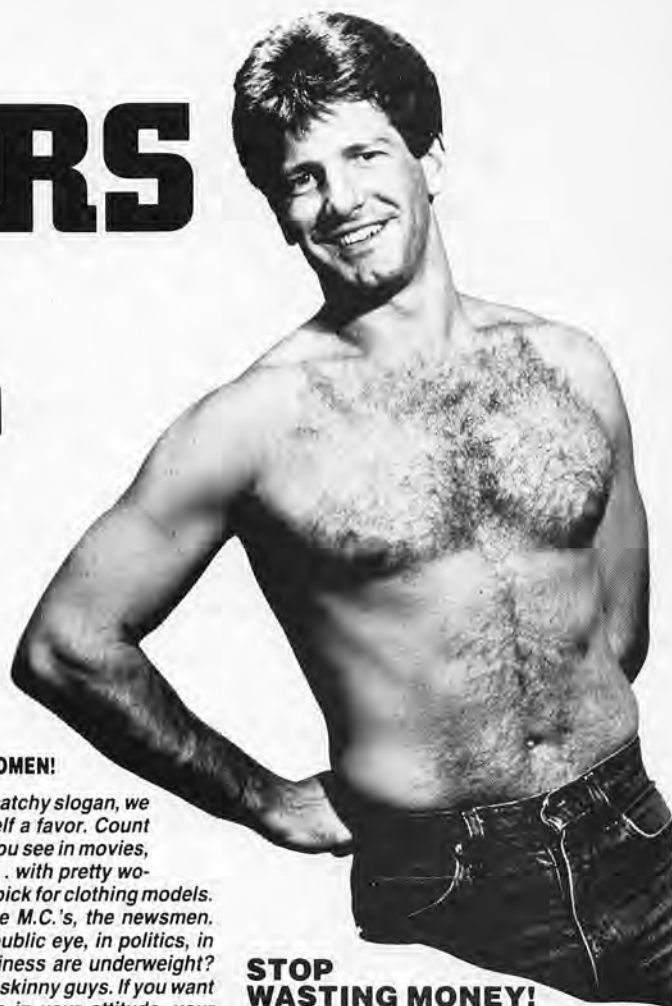
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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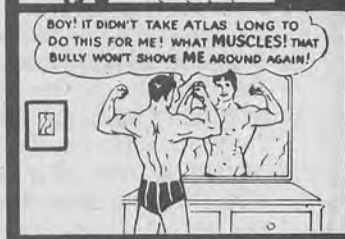


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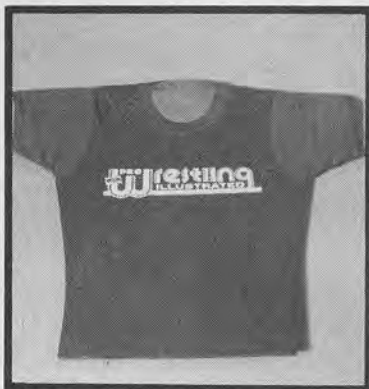
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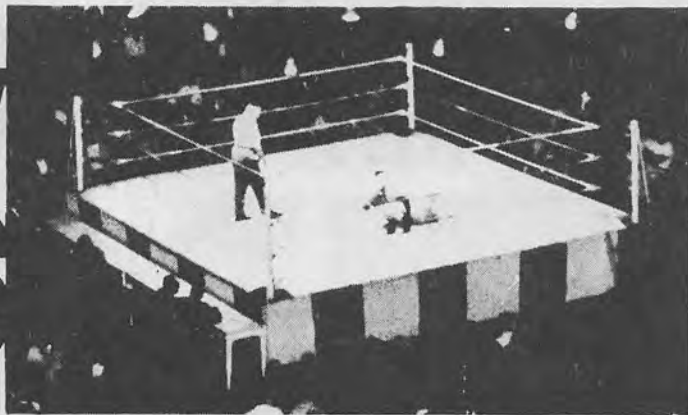
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LUGER'S BIG MISTAKE

After reading the story about Barry Windham and Lex Luger ("Barry Windham's Warning To Lex Luger: 'Keep Away From The Four Horsemen!' " May 1987), all I can say is that it's too bad Luger didn't listen to his ex-friend's advice.

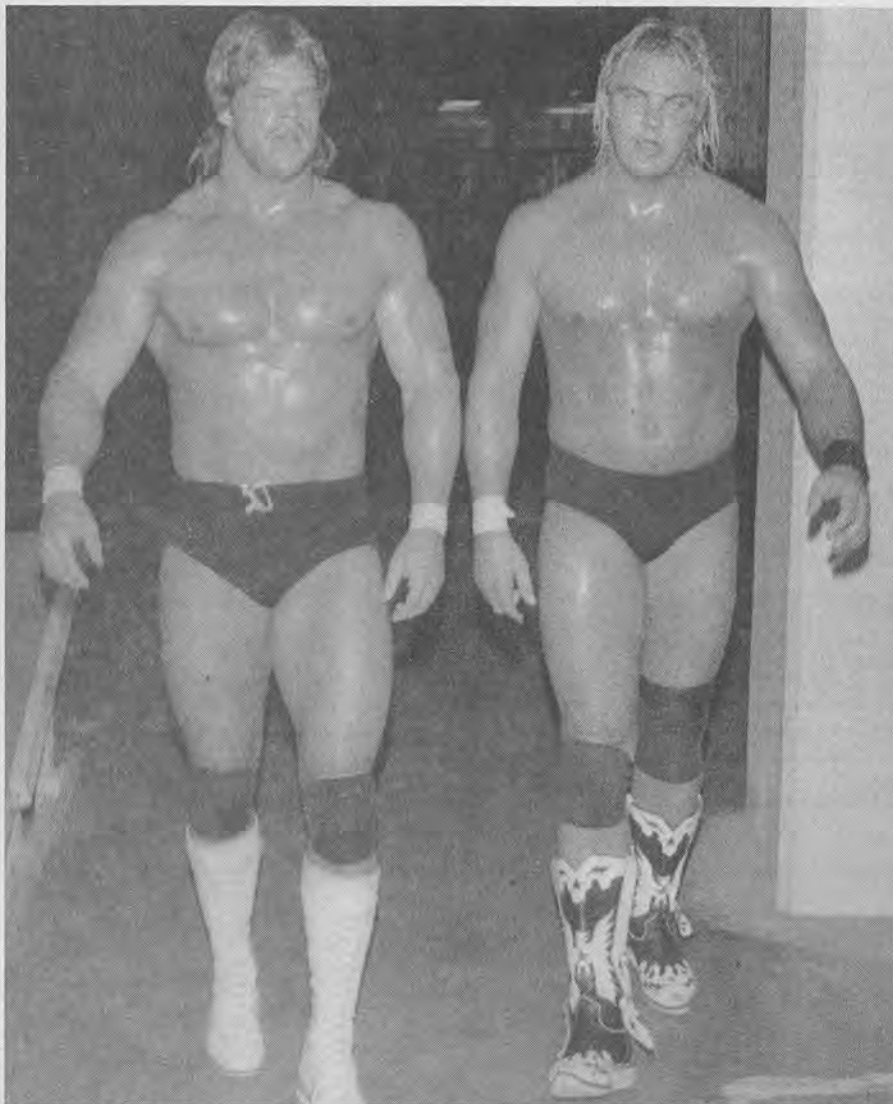
I think Luger made the mistake of his life by joining with The Four Horsemen. Ole Anderson proved that the Horsemen don't care about anybody but themselves. All Ole did was go to see his son wrestle, like any normal father would do, and Tully Blanchard made it sound like he had com-

mitted a federal crime. Naturally, Blanchard wouldn't understand because, like Ole said, he's an outsider in the Horsemen's family.

I thought it was interesting that Luger said of the Horsemen, "I'm here for the money and that's where the money is." Well, Lex, the money comes by winning championships and having fans pay to see you wrestle. As long as he's a Horseman, Luger will never get a shot at Ric Flair's NWA World title and will never make it big.

Doesn't Luger realize that the Horsemen are using him? Flair knows that Luger can beat him, so he made sure that Luger would never get a shot at him. Well, Lex, it's too late now. You've turned your back on Barry Windham and you've turned your back on the fans. You've made your bed. Now sleep in it.

CINDY NELSON
Orlando, FL



Lex Luger and Barry Windham return to the dressing room after one of their last appearances as a team. Like many fans, Cindy Nelson thinks Luger made a mistake when he broke with Windham and joined The Four Horsemen.

MOVE ON, ROCKERS!

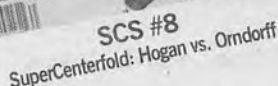
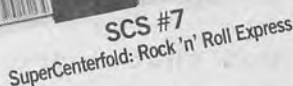
Well, The Midnight Rockers did it! They finally beat those two cheating bums, Buddy Rose and Doug Somers, and won the AWA World tag team title, just like you said they had to do ("Beat Rose & Somers—Or Move On: The Clock Strikes 12 For The Midnight Rockers!" May 1987).

I agree that it took Marty and Shawn way too long to beat Rose and Somers for the title, but they would have done it long ago if not for outside interference from Sherri Martel, and Rose and Somers' cheating tactics. In my opinion, The Midnight Rockers have been the best team in the AWA

(Continued on page 48)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

WrestleMania III is history. The show was terrific, the Silverdome was sold out, and the event itself was perhaps the best-promoted sporting event ever. That includes Super Bowls, World Series, championship fights, and just about any other major event you can think of.

I want to give my congratulations to WWF head Vince McMahon. But first, I guess I should give him my apologies.

A few months ago, in this very column, I predicted that "The Silverdome would be less than half-filled for this bout." Well, to say I was wrong is a bit of an understatement. I was VERRRRRRY WROOONG, and I happily admit it.

Happily, you might ask? Yes, happily. Because WrestleMania III was a boon to wrestling. It proved that wrestling is not just a passing fad, but a sport that is vital and growing. It also proved that good hard wrestling--which WrestleMania thankfully featured--is a good enough entertainment to attract millions of fans around the world.

Now, a few words on the main event. I think Hogan must be given a lot of credit--he is, after all, the first man ever to score a win over Andre the Giant. Some fans have claimed that Andre is past his prime. This may be true. But still, Hogan did something no other man has ever done. His clear pinfall win was one of the most decisive victories of his career.

As for Andre, I don't know what is next for him. Certainly, his days as "The Eighth Wonder Of The World" are over. I hope he realizes what he sacrificed for this bout with Hogan, and I hope he takes it out on Bobby Heenan's hide.

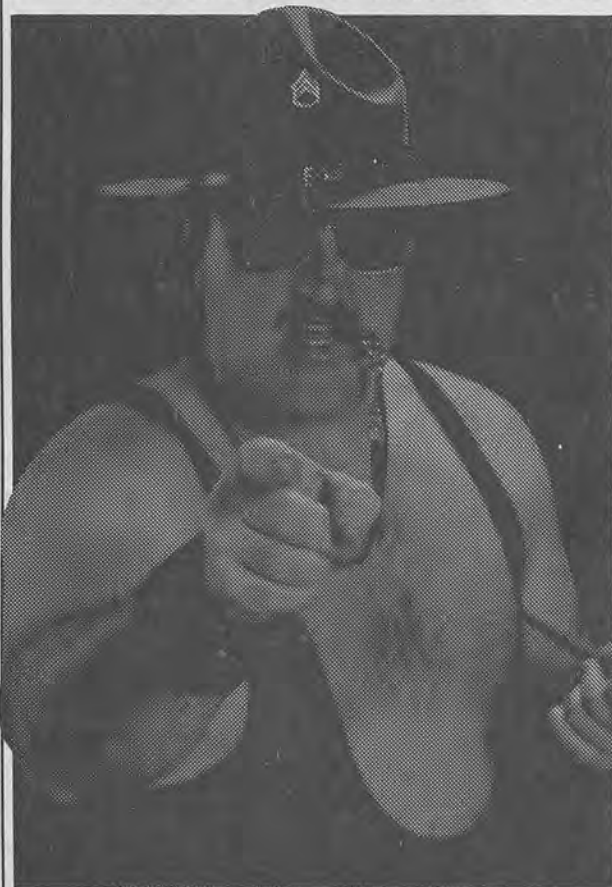
As for me, I have to go finish my dinner. Does anyone know what color wine goes well with crow?



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

THE TIME: TWELVE minutes and one second. The winner and new World Heavyweight Prognosticator: William McNaulty of Barre, Vermont.

Congratulations, William, you are the winner of the Andre the Giant-Hulk Hogan contest I ran in my May column in which I asked the readers to predict the winner and time of the WrestleMania III main event. The winner of the match, of course, was Hogan, and the time was 12:01. William's prediction was right on the money. As the winner, William will receive a year's subscription to both *Inside Wrestling* and *The Wrestler*.

Contrary to the telephone poll we conducted for "The PWI Poll" in the July issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—in which 61 percent of the respondents felt that Andre would take the WWF World championship, 32 percent said Hogan would retain the title, and the remaining seven percent were undecided—the "Behind The Dressing Room Door" poll went 62 percent for Hogan, 27 percent for Andre, and the remaining 11 percent picking a draw by either double-countout or double-disqualification.

To clear up some confusion concerning the official time of the match: There were separate reports the day after WrestleMania that the Andre-Hogan match lasted either 11:43 or 11:44, but that is not the case. 12:01 is the correct time.

The contest aside, I want to go on the record as saying that WrestleMania III was the best wrestling card I have ever seen. I was not among the 93,173 fans in Pontiac (somebody from the magazine had to stay behind), but the action, even on TV, was superb. Regardless of whom you rooted for in the main event (yes, I picked Andre), you

(Continued on page 64)

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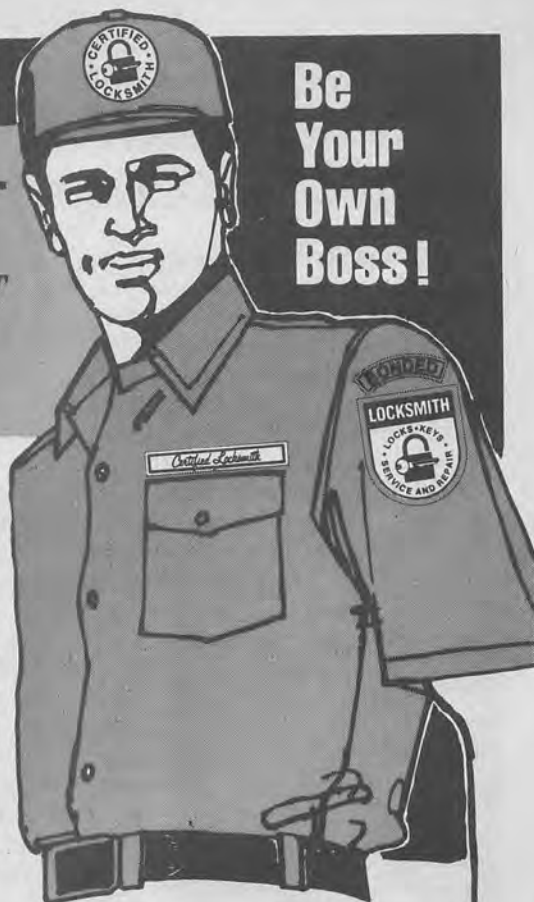


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THERE'S A STRANGE dichotomy in wrestling right now. On the one hand, 90,000 fans pack the Pontiac Silverdome for WrestleMania III; on the other hand, the World Class area is struggling to draw 1,000 fans to an average show.

Now, the object of this column is not to dump on the World Class area. On the contrary, I feel that they're on the verge of a major upswing that should find them stronger at the end of 1987 than they've been in a long, long time. The addition of The Fantastics, Nord the Barbarian, Eric Embry, Eli the Eliminator, Jeep Swenson, and Ted Arcidi—and rumors of more to come—should infuse the World Class area with new excitement and drama, and will offer Kevin Von Erich many significant challenges to his World Class title.



Nord the Barbarian

just over the border (the southern Ontario peninsula) are two of the hottest areas in the world for wrestling right now. Sometimes it seems like a card of prelim bums would draw 20,000 fans to an arena in that area. Yes, interest in the sport is *that* hot.

That's the one hand. Now for the other hand:

Economic conditions in Texas and Louisiana are horrid. Unemployment in Louisiana is extremely high right now, one of the highest in the nation, and Texas is getting beaten into the ground as the result of falling oil prices and dwindling prosperity in what was once the black-gold coast of the nation.

Unemployment. Oil prices. Words from tomorrow's headlines, but they have direct significance to what's happening in wrestling today.

High unemployment in Louisiana may be why the crowds at the first annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup Tag Team Tournament were lower than expected—and why the tournament was scheduled for Baltimore in 1987.

Hard times in Texas may be why crowds at the David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions have been dropping every year since 1984 (when over 43,000 fans were on attendance in Texas Stadium to see Kerry Von Erich defeat Ric Flair for the NWA World title).

Sure, everyone is quick to criticize the World Class for pulling out of the NWA, and undoubtedly the loss of NWA talent on the Texas Stadium card made the event less attractive to some fans. But people sometimes forget

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

that there are more reasons for small crowds than simply match quality or fan interest. Maybe the fans simply don't have the extra money to spend for a Supercard like the Texas Stadium show.

A lot of it may also have to do with attitude. Detroit is not prospering wildly (unemployment is still high in Michigan), but things are on an upswing there. The auto industry, after years of agonizing hard times (the times Texas and Louisiana are going through now), is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. There's an optimism that it's going to get better yet, and that allows

people the chance to treat themselves. Perhaps to a dinner out, perhaps to some new clothes—perhaps to WrestleMania III tickets.

There's another aspect of the "business" side of wrestling that's important to remember. The sport is growing. The WWF and NWA, in particular, are becoming huge and highly influential bodies in the sport today. A lot of stars want to be associated with one or another of those areas, and a lot of the stars already associated with those areas want to be paid the big bucks they feel they deserve.

So what happens?

A star in Memphis or Florida decides he wants to move to the WWF. Why? More money. The WWF wants stars, so they offer more money. In order to raise the more money, they raise the prices of seats in the arenas. They hold wrestling cards in huge 20,000-seat buildings instead of 2,000-seat high school gyms.

And the fans suffer, because they're paying higher prices to be farther away from the wrestlers.

It's not just the WWF; the NWA is just as guilty. Last year's Great American Bash series of cards saw high ticket prices in 60,000-seat stadiums all across the country. The fans were wary of attending, not because the cards weren't good, but because they didn't want to pay \$20 to watch matches through binoculars. The NWA seems to have learned its lesson; early word on the '87 Bash tour is that most cards will be held in smaller indoor arenas.

And yet—the WWF draws 90,000 fans to the Silverdome. Why? It's a business. The main event pits the most popular champion of all time against a man who is widely known as being undefeated. Something's got to give: either the title or the undefeated record. And fans want to see that when it happens.

Few matchups offer the kind of drama that the Hulk Hogan-Andre the Giant bout provides. It's a once-in-a-lifetime bout held in the hottest hotbed of the sport: northern Michigan/southern Ontario.

That's why over 90,000 tickets were sold for WrestleMania III. It's a sport, it's a feud, it's colorful, it's dramatic. But it's also a business. Remember that fact, and you'll be able to understand a little more about the sport than just who beats whom.

You'll understand a little of why the WWF draws 93,173 fans to WrestleMania III and why the World Class won't draw 43,000 fans to Texas Stadium again for a long, long time—and why the World Class area can have potentially better matches than WrestleMania and *still* be caught in that rut.

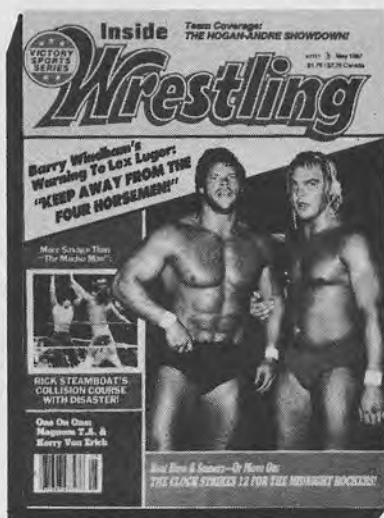
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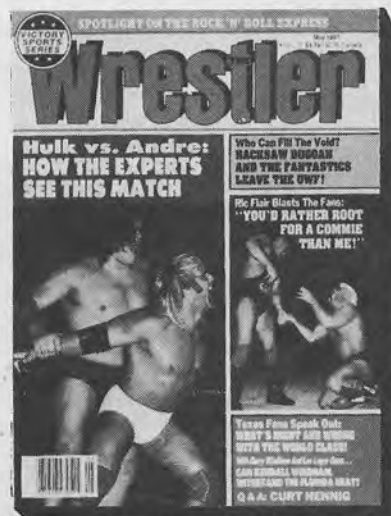
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NAMES MAKING

Now that WrestleMania III is history (and has made history), there are still a few loose ends to tie up. The first, and most important, concerns **Andre the Giant** and his stunning pinfall loss to WWF World heavyweight champion **Hulk Hogan** in the main event at the Pontiac Silverdome.

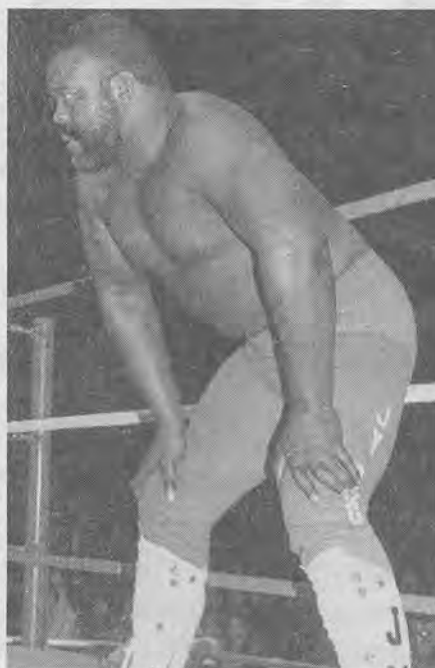
As all who watched the match know, Andre came very close to pinning Hogan in the opening 10 seconds when Hogan lost his balance while trying to bodyslam the Giant. In fact, referee **Joe Morella** started the three-count when Hogan's shoulders were apparently flat on the mat. But Morella ruled that Hogan lifted his shoulder a fraction of a second before the three-count. "Joey just didn't have time to



ANDRE vs. HULK HOGAN

stop the momentum of his hand," said a WWF official. "It was unfortunate that it had to happen that way."

Andre thought that the match was won and started to celebrate prematurely. To his credit, however, Andre was able to maintain his momentum and dominate most of the match. The 7'5", 525-pound giant should also be



JUNKYARD DOG

congratulated for not resorting to rule-breaking tactics, despite the influence of manager **Bobby Heenan**.

Another controversial matter regards the **Rick Steamboat-Randy Savage** match. Savage appeared to have Steamboat pinned for at least 10 seconds, but referee **David Hebner** had been knocked out a few seconds earlier. Steamboat came back to win the match and the Intercontinental title. Certainly, Savage was upset about the outcome and has demanded a series of rematches.

Also, a report in *The Detroit News* said that **Junkyard Dog's** days in the WWF were numbered following his loss to **Harley Race**. At the very least, JYD deserves to be suspended. He had already lost the match and, as the rules stipulated, had to bow down to Race. He did so—barely—but when Race's back was turned, he hit him over the head with a chair.

For more complete coverage of the WrestleMania III card, see our exclusive ringside report on page 34. From

a personal standpoint, this was one of the great cards in wrestling history and certainly worthy of its extravagant advanced billing.

Full coverage of the Andre-Hogan match will appear in the August 1987 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, on sale May 26. The September '87 *PWI* will feature color coverage of WrestleMania III, the Crockett Cup, Parade of Champions, SuperBlast at the Superdome, and more.



DICK MURDOCH

Believe it or not, there's plenty of other news to report. **Dick Murdoch** and **Ivan Koloff**, who recently won the U.S. tag team championship from **Barry Windham** and **Ron Garvin**, are in hot water with the NWA. While **Nikita Koloff** was wrestling at a television taping, Murdoch ran in, attacked the Russian, and piledrived him on the floor. Nikita was badly injured and is now forced to wrestle with a brace on his neck. As a result of this attack, Murdoch was suspended for 30 days by the NWA.

Because of the suspension, Murdoch left for Japan, leaving Koloff and **Vladimir Petrov** to defend the belts. But the NWA is not happy with this situation and might strip Koloff and Mur-

N' NEWS

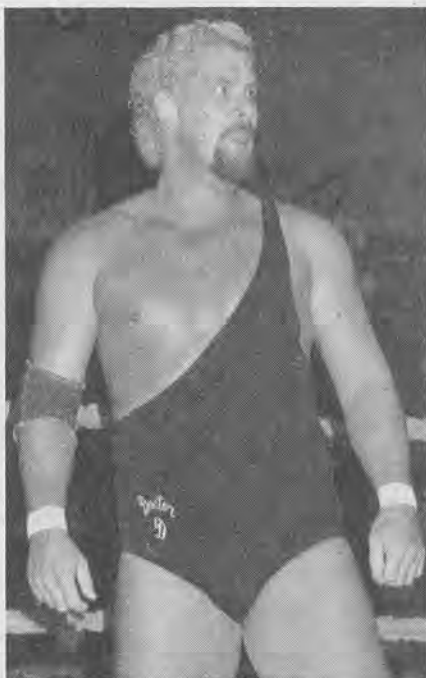
Bill Apter
reporting...

doch of the belts because Murdoch cannot defend his half of the title within 30 days. "This is ridiculous," said Murdoch. "How can I defend the title within 30 days if I'm suspended for 30 days? I have an idea that **Dusty Rhodes** is behind this."

The AWA has a biggie planned for Easter Sunday (April 19). A tag team tournament will be held in the Minneapolis Auditorium, and the winners will get a title shot at **The Midnight Rockers** the very same night. Scheduled to be on hand are: **Nick Bockwinkel** and **Ray Stevens**, **Greg Gagne** and **Curt Hennig**, **Super Ninja** and **Mr. Saito**, **Col. DeBeers** and **Larry Zbyszko**, **Buddy Rose** and **Kevin Kelly**, **Steve O** and **D.J. Petersen**, **Crusher Blackwell** and **Paul Neu**, and **The Nasty Boys**.

On page 36 of this issue is a story entitled "New Promoter, New Look, New Champion: **Mike Rotundo** Wins The Florida Title!" Well, be informed that Rotundo is no longer the Florida champion. Rotundo, remember, won the title from **Ed "The Bull" Gantner**, who had been given the belt by **Sir Oliver Humperdink**. After Gantner lost, Humperdink filed a protest with the NWA stating that Rotundo cannot be champion because Gantner had never won the belt in the ring. The NWA, which should have acted the moment Humperdink handed the belt to Gantner, has ruled in the manager's favor. They have ordered the belt held up and ordered a cage match between Humperdink and Rotundo to decide an undisputed champion. Humperdink might have won the battle, but he's definitely going to lose the war!

David Shultz claims that he did not lose the Canadian International title to **Hercules Ayala** as was previously reported. He claims that he was never informed by Montreal officials of



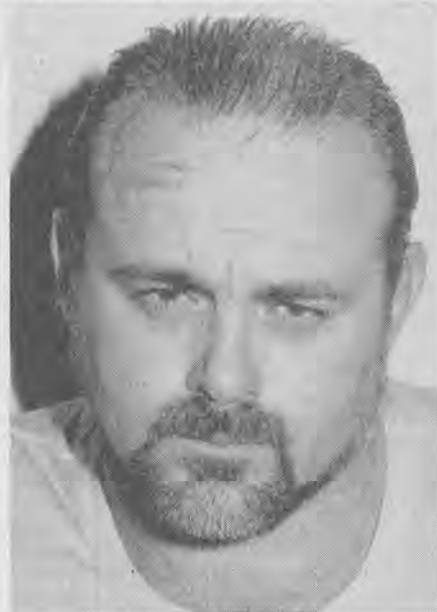
DAVID SHULTZ

a rematch after the title was held up. Shultz was stripped of the belt. **Abdullah the Butcher** subsequently defeated Ayala for the belt. Abdullah, incidentally, is now being managed by **Eddie Creachman**. The two had a parting of the ways last year but made up after Creachman ran into the ring and helped Abdullah beat up **Steve Strong**... **Ricky Santana** defeated **Rip Oliver** in Portland, Oregon, on March 21 to win the Pacific Northwest championship. Santana and partner **The Assassin** are also going after the tag belts, held by Oliver and **Mean Mike Miller**.

Bam Bam Bigelow has been suspended by Mid-Southern officials for 30 days. Bigelow and **Jerry Lawler** wrapped **Tommy Rich's** legs around the ringposts and pulled Rich forward, injuring him in the groin area. (You'll recall that Rich and **Austin Idol** recently did the same thing to Lawler.) Bigelow and Lawler were each fined \$5,000 for this, but Bigelow refused to pay and was suspended.

Central States champion **Bulldog Bob Brown** has been pinned a number of times by **Rufus R. Jones** in non-title matches but refuses to give Jones a shot at the title. By the way, Brown was scheduled to take on AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** in Kansas City just a day after press time. We'll have the results in next month's issue.

The Bahamas title was declared vacant after **Bad News Allen** suffered a serious neck injury at the hands of **Kevin Sullivan**. In a related item,



KEVIN SULLIVAN

Sullivan has given up his Southern belt, saying that he doesn't need a title to prove his superiority. In light of Jim Crockett Promotions' new relationship with Florida, the NWA has indicated that it will go with one heavyweight championship in Florida and that the Southern title will be eliminated... **The Road Warriors** defeated **Jumbo Tsuruta** and **Genichiro Tenryu** by countout to win the All-Japan International belts.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □

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September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

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September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

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August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Sameans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

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June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

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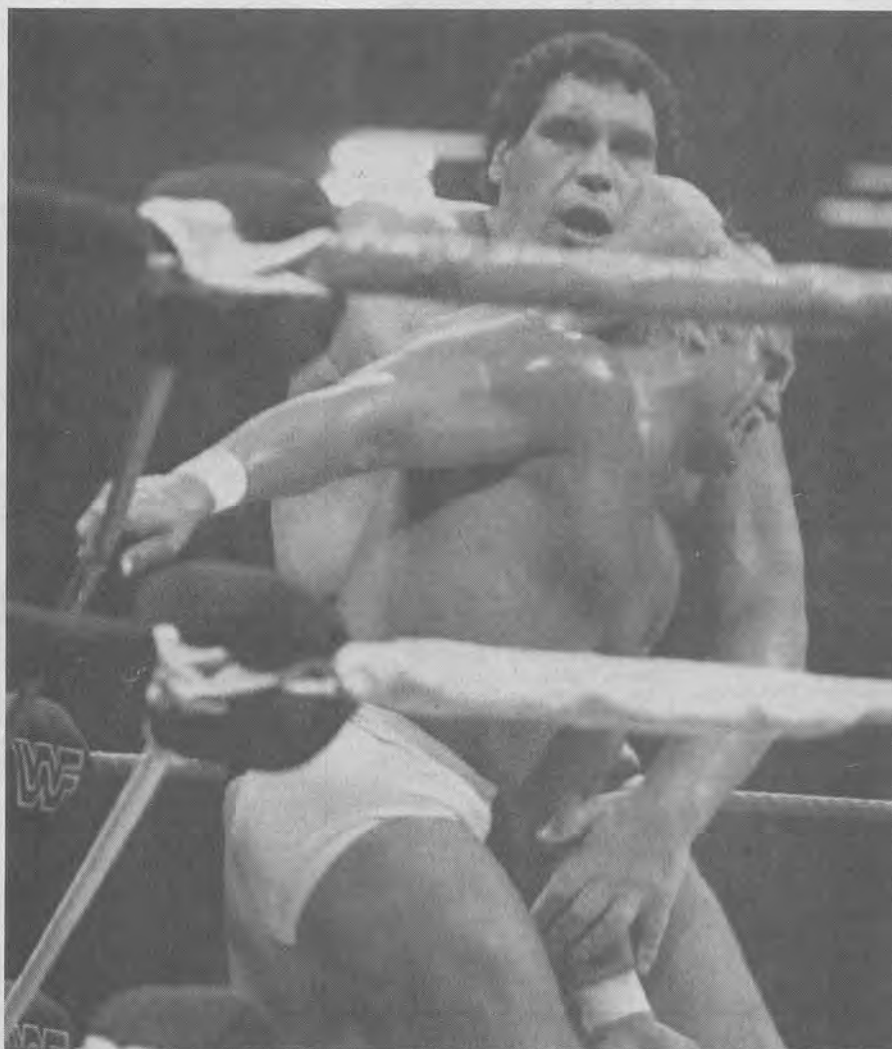
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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner



Andre the Giant grabs Hulk Hogan by the hair and pulls him into the tumbuckle during their WrestleMania III title match. Eddie Ellner feels that this match put a damper on an otherwise enjoyable afternoon of wrestling.

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

THEY SHOULD NOT have been so bunched together, colliding like vast heavenly bodies. Dr. Paul Cohen, urologist, former

bartender, and good buddy invited me to New Orleans for the Final Four back in December. As WrestleMania III arrived smack in the middle of the Final Four, it made for some hectic travel. After UNLV's disappointing loss to Indiana Saturday, I caught the last flight out of Louisiana to Detroit and was picked up by Matt Brock. The next three hours were spent

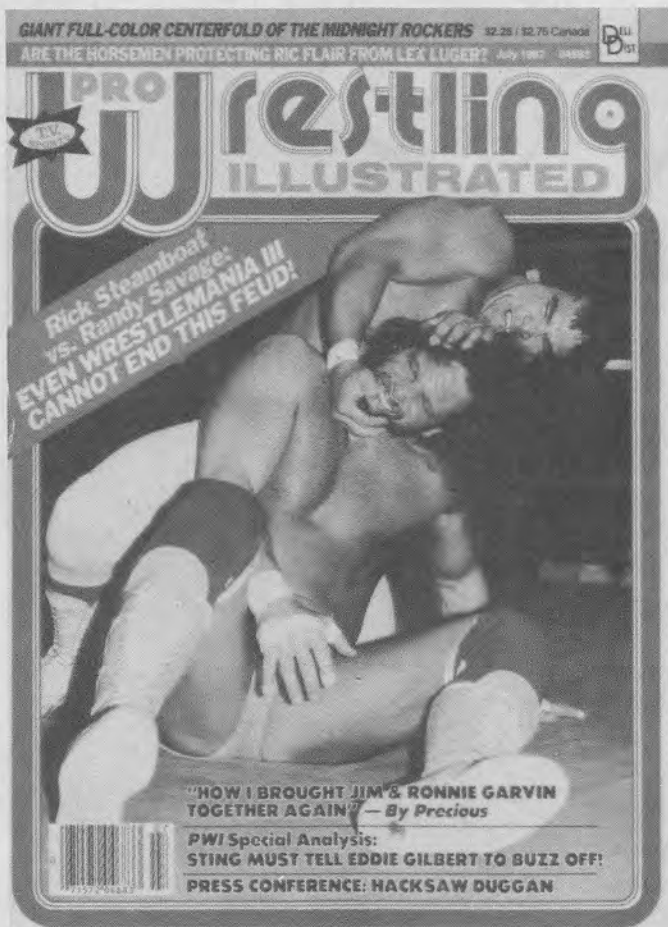
touting the matches in the airport bar until we staggered back to the hotel.

The following night I did the same in reverse, except Paul had the decency (not to mention the resources) to treat me to a drink in a nice restaurant. Big, enthusiastic crowds were the rule in both locations. But there were tremendous differences. The NCAA tournament is a celebration of youth and possibility, conducted within a framework where anything can happen and usually does. The excitement of the final game between Indiana and Syracuse was unsurpassed, underlining the essence of sport as it should be played. WrestleMania III was a garish, commercialized sideshow with Andre the Giant as the feature freak.

Leaving Detroit for New Orleans Sunday night, I couldn't help thinking that if Andre played a team sport, he would have been cut long ago. This is not to disparage the promotion. Surprisingly, the WWF put out a superlative card, far superior to the first two WrestleManias. It would have been perfect without the main event. As it was, the match ruined the entire evening for me. Watching Andre lunge awkwardly about the ring soon became intolerable. Hogan's victory means little, certainly less than his wins over Randy Savage or King Kong Bundy, but it is this match more than any that will springboard him into the province of legend. A shame.

(Continued on page 56)

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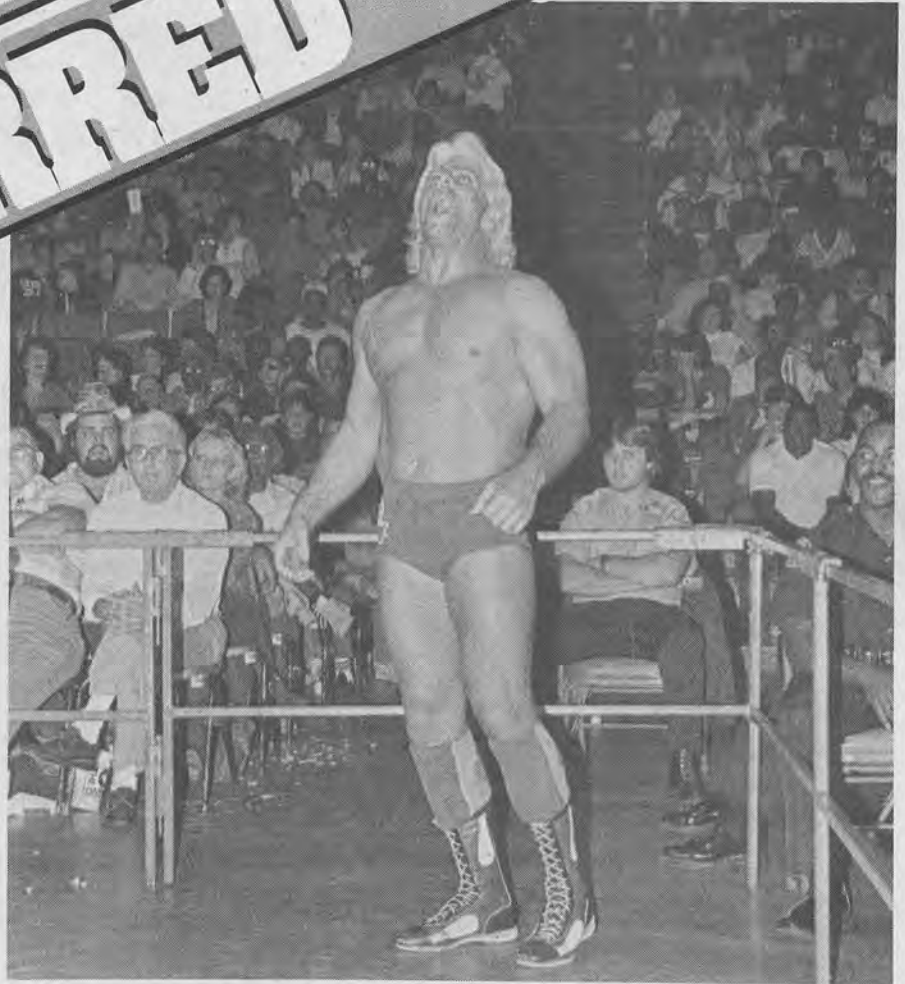
with David Rosenbaum

WHILE DRIVING AROUND New York City one recent night, having just watched the New York Rangers suffer another loss at Madison Square Garden, my mind switched to professional wrestling. It suddenly came to me that it had been exactly one year since I started working at *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications.

One year. That's 12 months of Bill Apter's jokes, Stu Saks' editing, Craig Peters' music tapes, and Ranger-Islander arguments with Rich Countis. That's also 12 months with some of the most informed people in the sport: One does not spend eight hours a day, five days a week with Bill, Craig, Stu, Peter King, Eddie Ellner, Liz Hunter, and Matt Brock without having some of their vast knowledge rub off.

In horse race handicapping, those who are knowledgeable about the sport are said to have "an opinion." Because there are no hard and fast answers in harness race handicapping, there is also no such thing as a right or wrong opinion. Knowledge equals an opinion. To say that a person has no opinion means that he has no idea what he's talking about. Sure, he might have something to say. But it means nothing.

I would hope that, after 12 months at *Inside Wrestling*, I've gone from possessing just a working knowledge of



NWA World champion Ric Flair gives a big *Who!* to the crowd. In the opinion of Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum, Flair is not only an outstanding wrestler, but one of the most charismatic athletes in any sport.

the sport to having an opinion. If not, those who know me know that I always have something to say about everything. Some might call it obnoxious. Others might call it arrogance. But what can I say? After all, I am a Mets fan.

So, without further chatter, here goes. Twelve months worth of opinions, gathered from a full year of working alongside some of the giants of wrestling journalism:

Ric Flair is one of the most charismatic athletes I've ever witnessed. He's also one of the most exciting. The first time I saw Flair live was last July at the Great American Bash card in Phil-

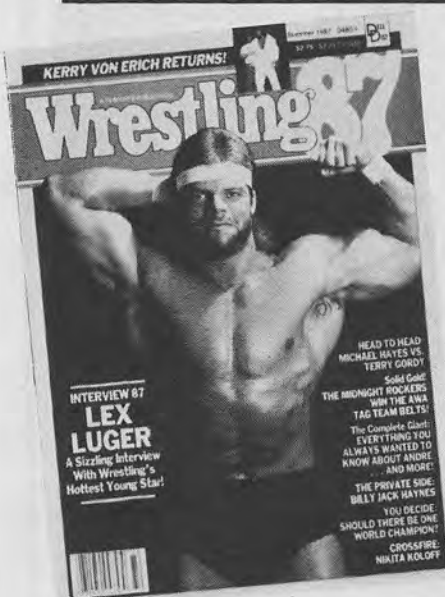
adelphia. The feeling, the response of the crowd when he stepped out of the dressing room, was incredible. Ric Flair creates excitement. He's also an incredible wrestler. Say what you want about Flair's sometimes questionable tactics. Slick Ric *is* wrestling. There's no man in wrestling I'd rather watch.

And that includes Hulk Hogan, who rubs me the wrong way every time I see him. There's something about Hogan that's just wrong. This has nothing to do with fan favorites and rulebreakers. I just feel that Hogan is an egotist, much worse than Flair because Hulk tries to make the fans believe that he's

(Continued on page 58)

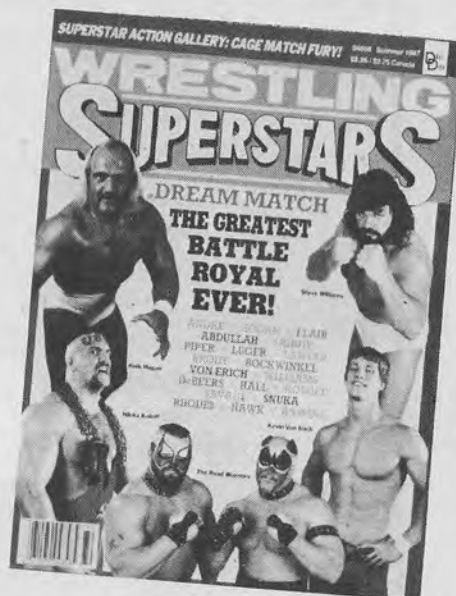
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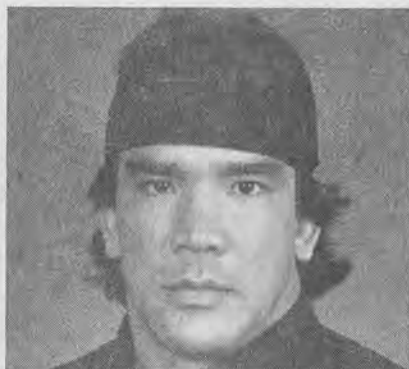
NEWS FROM THE

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EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ

By Ricky Villar



**RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
RANDY SAVAGE**

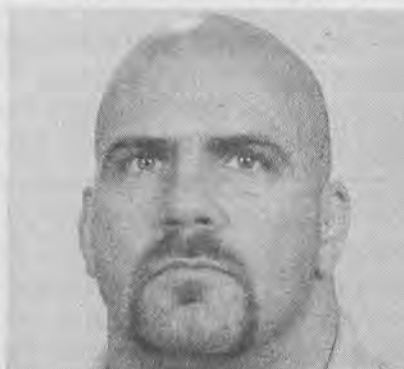


Fans in the Meadowlands Arena roared as Steamboat challenged Savage for the Intercontinental title. Steamboat had the advantage early, but Savage went for Steamboat's injured throat and threw "The Dragon" over the top rope. After a few minutes, Steamboat rolled up Savage, but "The Macho Man" kicked out. Steamboat rolled up Savage again, but this time Savage reversed the maneuver and got the pin.

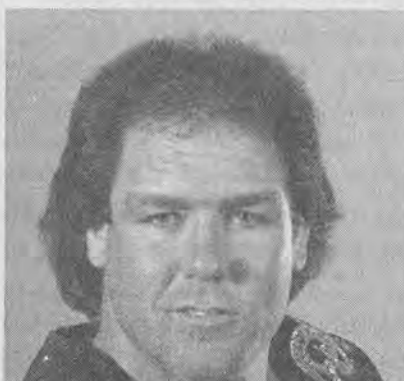
OTHER BOUTS: Kamala and Jake Roberts were both counted out ... The Honky Tonk Man pinned Koko B. Ware ... Mike Rotundo & Dan Spivey beat The Islanders ... Dino Bravo pinned Brad Rheingans ... Sika defeated S.D. Jones ... Paul Roma pinned Steve Lombardi ... Pedro Morales defeated Frenchy Martin.

COLUMBIA, SC

By Jack L. Murphy



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
TULLY BLANCHARD**

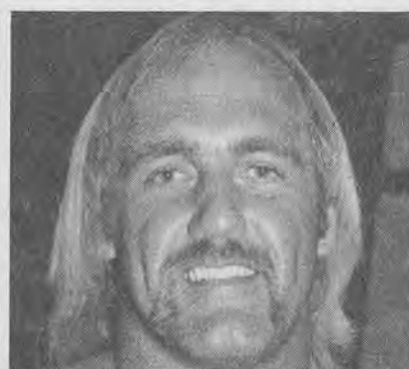


After much furious action, Nikita broke Tully's figure-four leglock and rolled him into a small package. Tully escaped and started working on Nikita's leg. In the ensuing scuffle, the referee was knocked out and Nikita gave Tully the sickle. As Nikita went for the pin, Lex Luger jumped at him from the top rope. Luger rolled Tully on top of Nikita, and a second referee made the three-count, but the first referee had seen Luger's interference and disqualified Tully.

OTHER BOUTS: The Rock 'n' Roll Express & Barry Windham beat Rick Rude, Manny Fernandez, & Paul Jones ... Arn Anderson pinned Brad Armstrong ... Lex Luger beat Baron Von Raschke ... The Kansas Jayhawks defeated The M.O.D. Squad ... Bob Armstrong pinned Bill Dundee ... Konga the Barbarian defeated Brady Boone.

LOS ANGELES, CA

By Stephen Rom



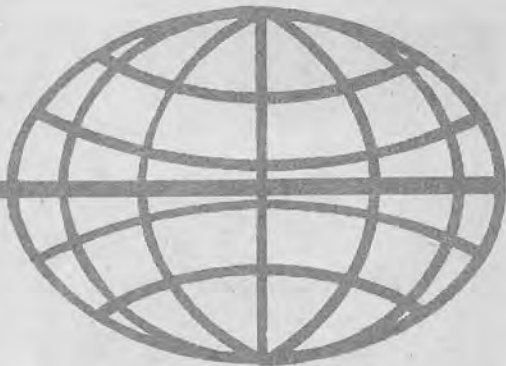
**HULK HOGAN
vs.
KAMALA**



There were no holds barred in this no-disqualification match. Kamala pearl-harbored Hulk as he entered the ring. The Hulkster came back with a series of clotheslines and then a big elbow that sent Kamala crashing down to the concrete floor. Hogan followed up by punching Kamala, his trainer Kim Chee, and The Wizard. Later, Hogan took powder out of his trunks and threw it in Kamala's face. He followed up with the big legdrop and got the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Roddy Piper and Adrian Adonis were both disqualified ... Harley Race beat Junkyard Dog ... The Can-Am Connection pinned Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff ... Demolition defeated The U.S. Express ... Ron Bass breezed by Lanny Poffo ... Dick Slater beat J.J. Funk ... Cpl. Kirchner defeated Iron Mike Sharpe ... Barry O beat Moondog Spot.

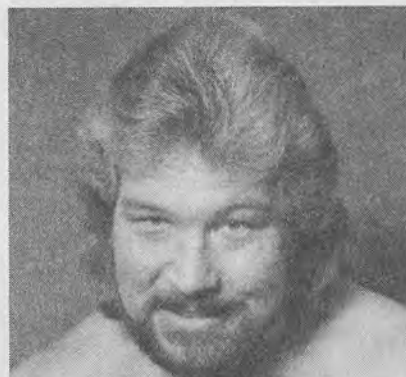
WRESTLING CAPITALS



TYLER, TX By Gary Walton



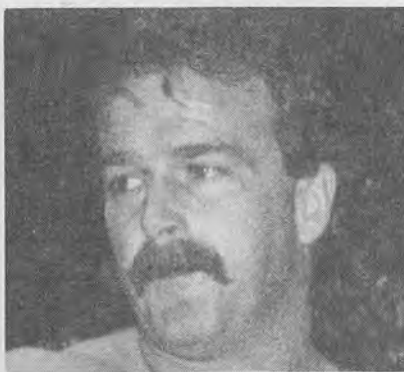
**ONE MAN GANG
vs.
TED DiBIASE**



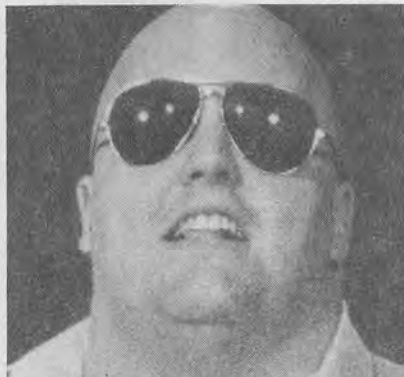
This was a no-disqualification match for the UWF title at The Oil Palace. Just as OMG stepped into the ring, DiBiase started hitting him with the title belt. About 10 minutes into the match, OMG and DiBiase were both bleeding badly. At the 20-minute mark, Skandor Akbar distracted DiBiase while OMG knocked him out with a chain and retained the belt.

OTHER BOUTS: Sam Houston won a 20-man bunkhouse brawl ... Steve Williams beat Terry Gordy by disqualification ... Eddie Gilbert & Sting beat Missing Link & Chavo Guerrero ... Missy Hyatt defeated Dark Journey ... Eli the Eliminator & Bill Irwin beat Gary Young & Savannah Jack in a triple-jeopardy match.

DETROIT, MI By Douglas Ruso



**JAKE ROBERTS
vs.
KING KONG BUNDY**



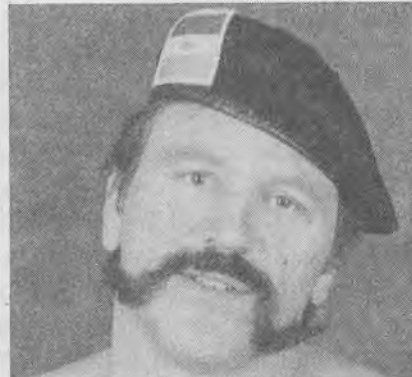
Bundy was astonished at the sight of Roberts coming to the ring carrying his snake in a bag. A match with incredible displays of strength and powerful blows continued until Bobby Heenan stole Roberts' bag. Roberts chased Heenan back to the dressing room. When the action resumed, Roberts DDT'd Bundy, but Heenan pulled Bundy out of the ring before Roberts could get the snake on him.

OTHER BOUTS: Hercules Hernandez won the battle royal ... Randy Savage defeated George Steele ... The Hart Foundation beat Tito Santana & Dan Spivey ... Rick Steamboat defeated Iron Sheik.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN By Alex Theopoulos



**JIMMY SNUKA
vs.
COL. DeBEERS**



This was a Polynesian death match, with both wrestlers strapped together. The referee was pro football player Russ Francis. As the match progressed, DeBeers pulled out a foreign object, but Francis stopped him from using it. As DeBeers and Francis argued, Snuka blindsided DeBeers and pinned him. After the match, DeBeers slugged Francis, then Snuka held DeBeers back while Francis got in the last punch.

OTHER BOUTS: The Midnight Rockers beat Boris Zukhov & Master Blaster ... Massa Saito, Super Ninja, & Larry Zbyszko beat Ray Stevens, Nick Bockwinkel, & Greg Gagne ... Curt Hennig pinned Doug Somers ... Sherri Martel pinned Candi Divine ... Kevin Kelly pinned Buck Zumhofe ... Paul Neu pinned Rick Gantner.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

TOKYO, JAPAN: I'm back in Japan and this figures to be one of the greatest wrestling months of the year. The Road Warriors are here tonight to meet Genichiro Tenryu and Jumbo Tsuruta for the International tag team belts. As usual, the Roadies are a great draw. Anyway, later this month, there's WrestleMania III in Detroit, which has to be one of the worst towns to watch a sporting event. I remember a few years back when they held the Super Bowl in Detroit and the press rebelled. Can't blame them. Who'd want to be in Detroit during January? Or even March? But this is Tokyo, Nihon Budokan Hall, and the Japanese wrestling fans are an incredible lot. These people don't shut up from the moment they enter the building. Don't tell me about baseball. Wrestling is the national sport of Japan and these people are proving it. Good guys and bad guys don't mean anything to them. They just scream their lungs off, cheer everything, and the regular appearances of Animal and Hawk really get these people going. If this wasn't Japan, I'd want to live here. Forget the fans, though. The big news is that the Roadies won the All-Japan International tag belts by something called a "ringout" after 11 minutes and 17 seconds. Animal threw Tenryu out of the ring, and 10 seconds later the Japanese ref was wrapping the belts around the Roadies' waists. These guys deserve it because they've gone a long time without a title. My congratulations. By the way, Ric Flair, proving that he truly is a *world* champion, wrestled Hiroshi Wajima in another match and pinned him at 18:20.

TULSA, OK: Eddie Gilbert calls himself a tough guy, but I know men and I know there's only one thing that can soften him up: a girl like Missy Hyatt. But now she's going to New York and he's staying down here and I'm not sure he can take it. Put it this way: If you were engaged to a broad who looked like Missy, how would you feel if she packed



EDDIE GILBERT & MISSY HYATT

her bags and went north for a spell? Gilbert and Missy claim that they're still engaged, but I suspect trouble in paradise. Listen, I'm no expert, but I've gone through enough broads and bad situations in my years to know when something's up. When a girl's in love, she sticks by her man, no matter what happens. It looks to me like Missy Hyatt is in love with one thing—money—and no man is going to hold her back. You have to give credit to Gilbert, though, because with all he must be going through,

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

he still summoned up enough guts to win the TV title from Savannah Jack (with more than a little help from Iceman Parsons). That says something about Gilbert's dedication to wrestling, because people doubted him for a while. Now this is no Dear Abby column, but I have some words of advice for Gilbert: Stick with wrestling, don't follow Missy to the WWF, because she only means trouble. You're no bargain, either, but the two of you together just doesn't mix. Maybe Gilbert should go join John Tatum in the World Class area.

ATLANTA, GA: Let it be said that J.J. Dillon and Arn Anderson got this old scribe's goat a few weeks back when they got on television and claimed that The Four Horsemen have been around for 15 years. Well, I've been around for a lot more than 15 years and I don't remember seeing or hearing about The Four Horsemen in 1972. The first mention I heard of them was back around January or February of '86. If they're talking about the family partnership between Gene, Ole, and Lars Anderson, that's another story, but I think they're just shooting off their mouths. Either way, this is an amazing situation because suddenly there's not much family in-



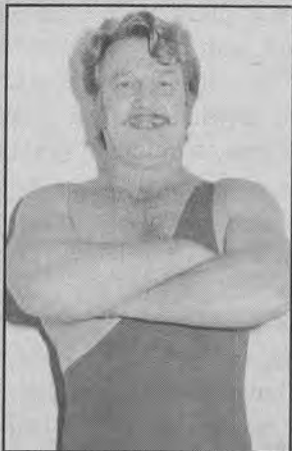
OLE & GENE ANDERSON

volved in The Four Horsemen. Arn and Flair are distant cousins, but the rest of them aren't even related. Simply put, Tully Blanchard and Dillon have gotten far too powerful, Arn is just a born follower, and Flair is too preoccupied with Space Mountain and his title to really care. So, Ole Anderson got a raw deal when he never did anything wrong in the first place. Lex Luger, of course, is another story. I still don't know what he's doing with these guys when he should be wrestling Flair every night. There's something very wrong here. The Four Horsemen are headed for disaster. It's only a matter of time before there's so much infighting that none of these guys will be talking to each other. Meanwhile, Luger's career will have been ruined, while Dillon and Blanchard laugh all the way to the bank. Take heed, Flair, Luger, and Arn: Don't trust Blanchard and Dillon.

PONTIAC, MI: Okay, so it's not Detroit. It's Pontiac, but who can tell one sewer from another? I arrived here on Friday night, two days before WrestleMania, and the general feeling in the city was one of expectation. When you live in Pontiac, things tend to get overblown, and in this case everyone is convinced that Hogan will pin Andre and make wrestling history. This, in turn, will put Pontiac on the map when it should have been blown off the face of the earth long ago. Well, it's WrestleMania Sunday and if Vince McMahon has his way, it'll soon have as much meaning as Super Bowl Sunday. This is, by the way, a super event. McMahon has done a great job—if you like a circus. That's the atmosphere here, just like it feels at a circus or carnival. McMahon has turned this sport into a big bucks business and you can't argue with success. Besides, the card wasn't bad. Although Savage-Steamboat was by far the best match, I wasn't disappointed with the Andre-Hogan match. It was just what I expected it would be, but I think we'll see it again. Now, McMahon has to start thinking about WrestleMania IV, which, from what I've heard, might take place at Wembley Stadium in England. Wrestling and the Queen. But forget next year. It's been a great month. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

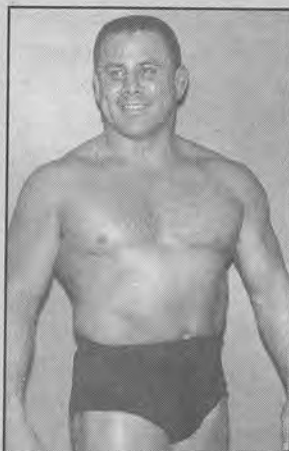
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



RED BASTIEN

The Flying Redhead captured many titles during his illustrious career, spanning three decades from the late 1950s to the late '70s. Teaming with his half-brother Lou Klein, the Bastien brothers were one of the most popular teams in the world.

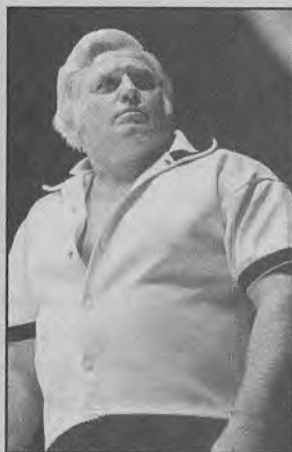
Now, after working with the WWF promotion for a few years, Bastien has decided to move on. He is working as a talent agent in California for the UWF and has signed many new prospects.



PEPPER GOMEZ

The fiery Mexican with the cast-iron stomach gained fame in Texas and California with his high-flying style. Gomez held the Texas title for almost four years and was California tag team champ with partner Rocky Johnson. Now, he is

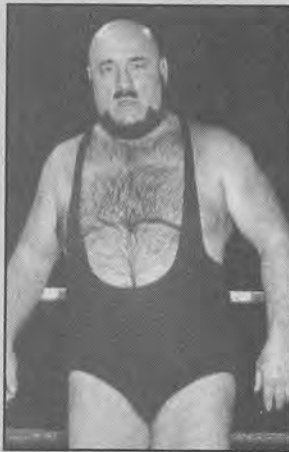
employed at one of Los Angeles' plushiest restaurants, Scoma's. "I'm no longer in wrestling, but I've always loved food," said Gomez. "I miss the sport, but I'm very happy with my life."



RIP HAWK

During the 1950s, '60s, and early '70s, Rip Hawk was one of the most hated men in the sport. He and Swede Hanson spread a reign of terror throughout the South that destroyed the careers of many wrestlers. Now, Rip

has retired and is living a quieter life in Amarillo, Texas, as part owner of a furniture stripping business. "We refinish furniture and we're doing very well," said Rip. "It was time for Rip Hawk to calm down."



MAD DOG VACHON

The French madman, who bit his way through opponents for over 36 years, has retired after an illustrious career in which he held the AWA World title five times and the AWA World tag team championship. He is

currently living in Montreal and talking about a possible comeback. "I haven't decided yet," said Vachon. "Right now, I'm just enjoying myself. I occasionally attend a match, but I'm mostly trying to relax."

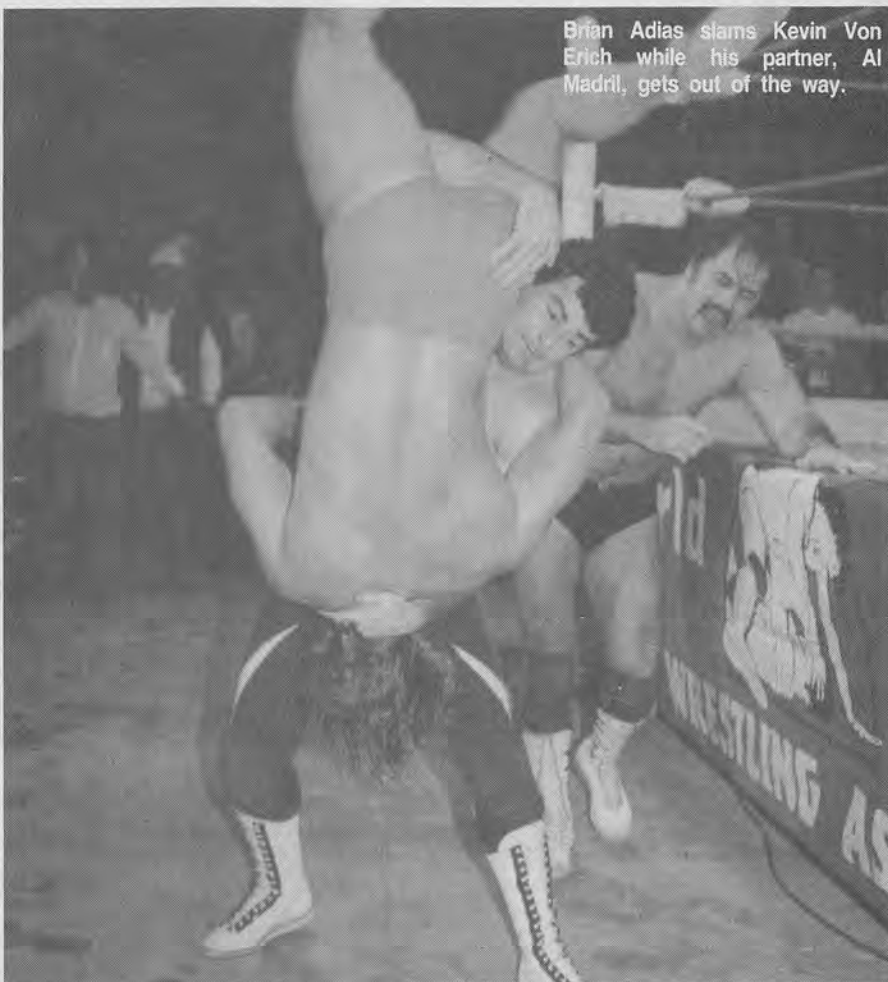
INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

GREW UP IN Denton County, Texas, the home of the Von Erichs (*"Growing up, we were pretty close friends, especially me and Kerry. Shows you what a sap I was as a kid"*) ... Attended grade school and high school with Kerry Von Erich (*"Even back then, he was always trying to hog the glory. What an egomaniac!"*) ... Attended the University of Texas and became Southland Conference shot put champion (*"I've always been a solid athlete, and track and field is my second love—after wrestling"*) ... Made his professional debut in 1982, but didn't begin to receive national attention until about a year later (*"I wrestled all around the country, but I like being home, here in Texas"*) ... Teamed with Iceman Parsons late in 1983 (*"We were a great team, and it's good to see that he's seen the light, lately, too!"*) ... Adias and Parsons captured the World Class tag team belts from The Super Destroyers, but held the championship for only about a month (*"We both had singles wrestling on our minds; no big deal"*) ... 1985 was a big year for Adias, seeing him capture the World Class Texas title on two occasions, both times from Gino Hernandez, holding the belt for most of the second half of 1985 (*"Gino and I had a hell of a feud; I respected him a lot as a competitor, and I'm going to miss him a lot"*) ...

BRIAN ADIAS

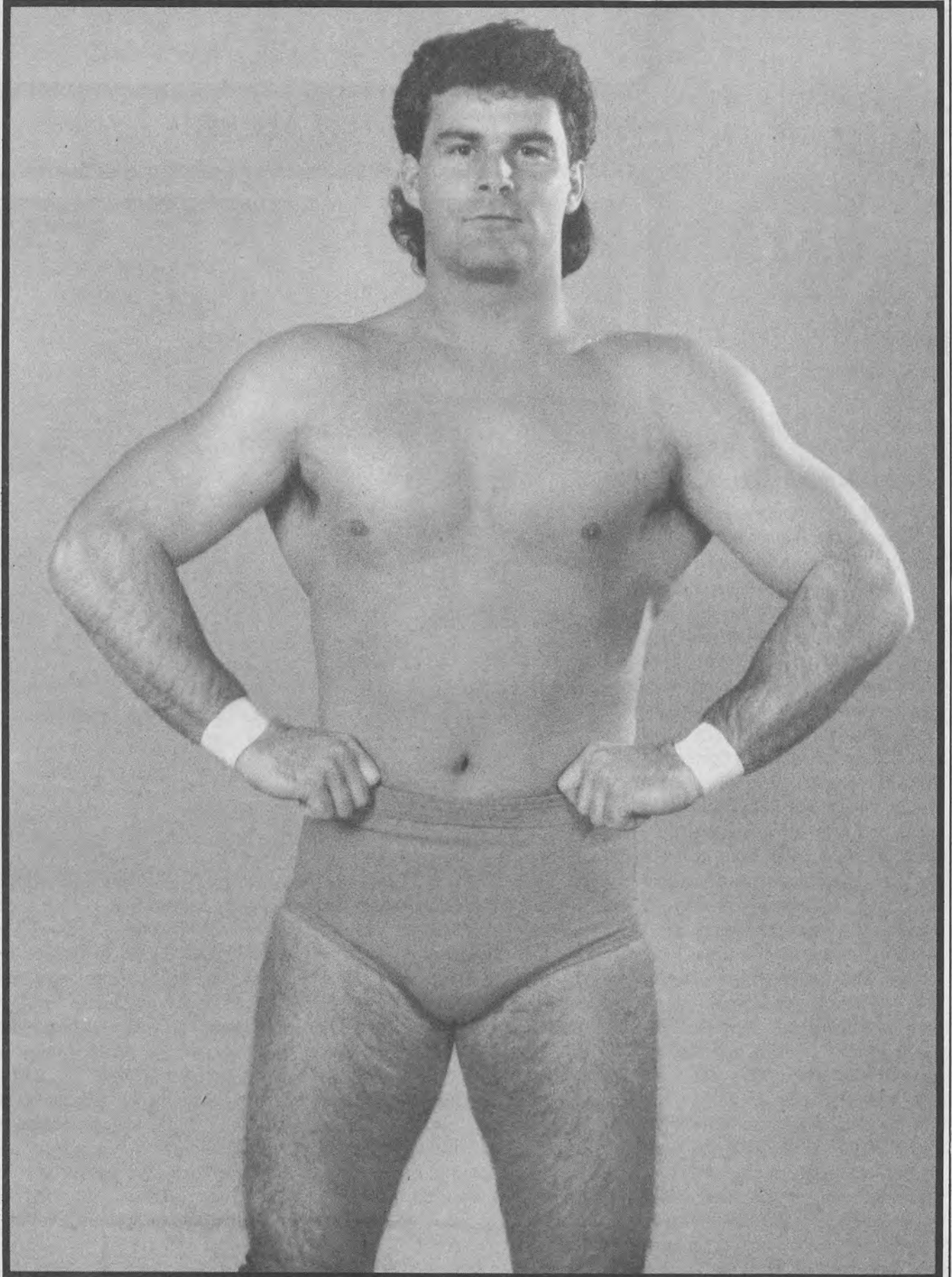


Brian Adias slams Kevin Von Erich while his partner, Al Madril, gets out of the way.

Adias eventually lost the title to The Grappler on December 9, 1985, but won it back three months later on March 10 (*"The Grappler I did not respect; he was a waste"*) ... Held the title until July 4, 1986, when he lost the belt to Buzz Sawyer (*"Last I heard of Buzz he was trying to open a wrestling school, and he was wrestling with his brother Brett in Japan"*) ... Attacked Mike Von Erich in the middle of a scientific bout, in effect declaring his independence from the Von Erichs (*"The only thing worse than Mike's wrestling is his physique"*) ... Attacked the recuperating Kerry Von Erich during an interview segment in November 1986 when prodded by Al Madril (*"Al made me realize that Kerry and the Von Erichs were taking advantage of*

me, and I realized I didn't have to put up with it anymore") ... Bonded by friendship and united in their hatred for the Von Erichs, Adias and Madril captured the World Class tag belts from Lance Von Erich and Dingo Warrior (*"Two of the worst wrestlers in the history of civilization!"*) ... Lost to Kerry in Kerry's comeback match on February 2, 1987—a match marred by the interference of Gary Hart and Mike Von Erich (*"He's a fool to come back so soon after such a serious injury; I'll cripple him for life"*) ... Adias and Madril lost the tag belts to The Fantastics on March 4, 1987, but they're determined to regain them quickly (*"The World Class hasn't heard the last of me—maybe I'll go after Kevin's belt now!"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BRIAN ADIAS

Rockin' Round The Clock: — WILL THE — MIDNIGHT ROCKERS BURN THEMSELVES OUT?



SHAWN MICHAELS & MARTY JANNETTY

SOME OF THE many clues that indicate that The Midnight Rockers are riding the fast lane to self-destruction:

- After defeating Buddy Wolfe and Boris Zukhov at a recent television taping in Las Vegas, Jannetty and Michaels judged a dance contest. After the dance contest, the AWA World tag team champions did some high-stepping of their own. And stayed out all night.

- Marty Jannetty on the origin of the name The Midnight Rockers: "At first, we were going to call ourselves The American Express, but all of our friends said, 'You guys are always up all night partying, so why don't you call yourselves The Midnight Rockers?' We thought it was a great idea!"

- Shawn Michaels on what makes life worth living: "Professional wrestling, girls, rock 'n' roll, and partying. Not necessarily in that order, of course." Of course.

- And this little tidbit from a friend of the Rockers: "Before they won the belts, Marty and Shawn were in the gym everyday,

Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels know how to have a good time, but their life of partying could lead them down the road to ruin. It's happened to other young, talented wrestlers in the past. The Midnight Rockers might be next



At one of their many post-match parties, Michaels signs autographs (above) and Jannetty shakes with the beat (below). All this revelry may be causing the Rockers to lose their competitive edge.



they made sure they got their eight hours sleep, and they never partied the night before a big match. But since they've won the belts, they've gotten awfully cocky. I hope they know what they're doing."

No need to worry, fans. For now, at least, The Midnight Rockers are safe and sound. Judging by the lack of competition in the AWA, Jannetty and Michaels would have to party for an entire week, then break both arms and legs before stepping into the ring, in order to lose the tag belts. Their competition is nearly nonexistent; any tag teams still hanging around have suffered plenty of

losses to the Rockers.

But what should happen if, all of a sudden, the tag team picture in the AWA starts to change? Don't forget it wasn't long ago that The Road Warriors and The Freebirds were strutting their stuff in AWA arenas, making the competition in this area among the toughest in the world. Those wrestling superstars are unlikely to return, but new, powerful tag teams are always being formed.

"That's what I'm worried about," says an anonymous friend of the Rockers. "Things are easy now, but I'm concerned that it will make Marty and Shawn go soft. They've always been very competitive, but now they have

this period when they can just sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labors. We've all heard the cliché about it being tougher to defend a title than to win one. Well, in this case, it's not true. What I'm saying is that if a really good tag team suddenly pops up in the AWA, will Marty and Shawn be ready for the challenge?"

That remains to be seen. The Midnight Rockers have always been known for partying and rockin'. Their love of women and rock 'n' roll has become legend. When in Las Vegas for AWA television tapings, Marty and Shawn always hold a large party, complete with rock bands. Invitations to these parties have become highly valued commodities among the elite Las Vegas crowd.

"We just love to rock 'n' roll," said Michaels. "We had a really hot band here last time. Me and Marty just got up there and started rockin' with them. Man, that was hot. We had that crowd moving. That's what me and Marty like to do. We just love to show people a good time. We've been very lucky and we just want to share some of our success with the people, just rockin' round the clock, like the song says."

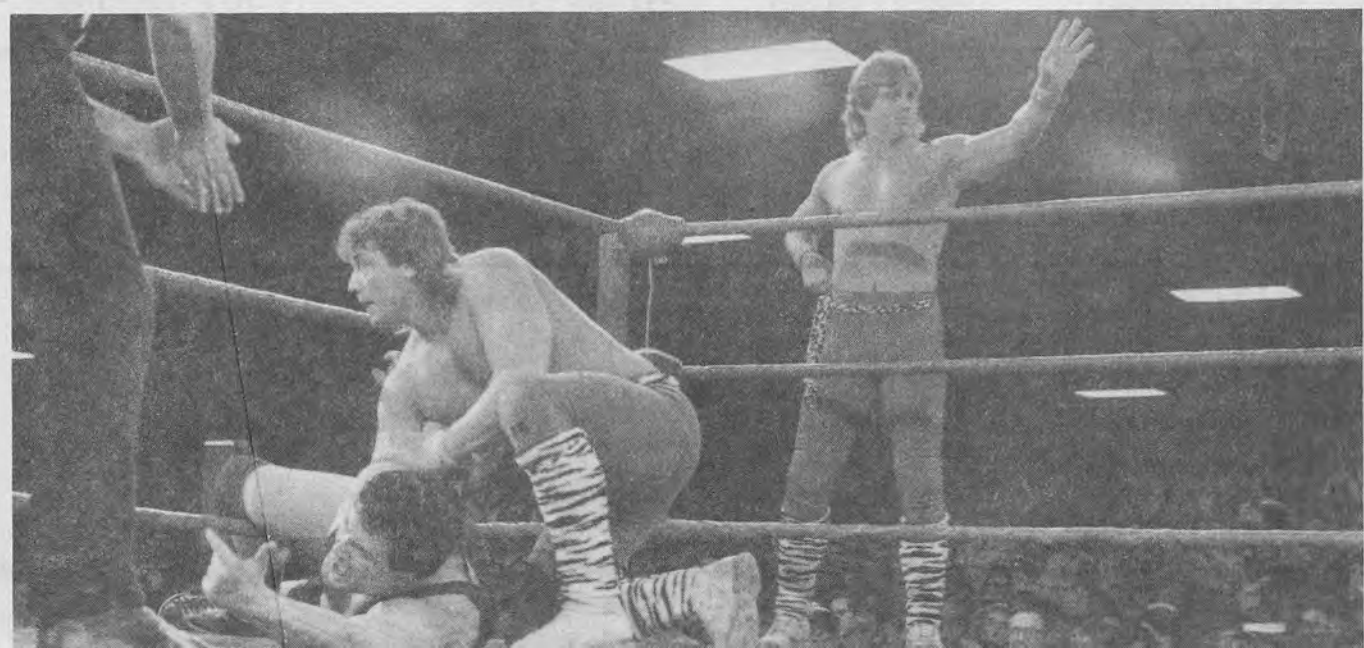
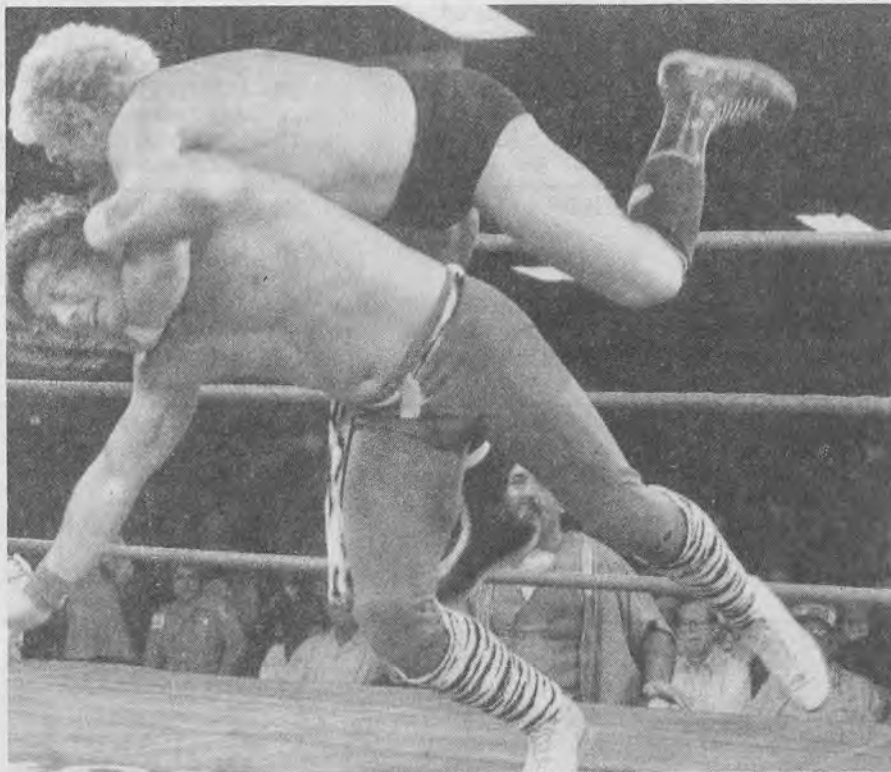
But every song has an ending. If they continue at this pace, so will The Midnight Rockers' title reign.

Shawn Michaels was born with wrestling in his blood. From the very start, it was practically written in stone that he would become a professional wrestler. His father, Richard, was a star at the University of Iowa, perhaps the greatest wrestling college in the country, and Shawn wanted to follow in his dad's footsteps.

"It was all I ever wanted to be," he says. "My father started teaching me at a very early age, and although I played football for a few years, I knew that I would someday become a professional



Jannetty executes a sunset flip on Boris Zukhov (above), armdrags Buddy Wolfe (below), and armbars Tom Stone (bottom). The Rockers have had a secure hold on the AWA tag team belts because they have not faced top-flight competition night after night. If tag team action starts heating up again in the AWA, the Rockers better make sure they are prepared.



wrestler. It was my dream and it was my father's dream. I never wanted to let my father down."

So after graduating from high school, Michaels became a professional wrestler and quickly rose to the top. The San Antonio native started in Texas and moved on to the Central States area, where he met Jannetty. Michaels then returned to Texas, but before long rejoined Jannetty in the AWA.

"Me and Marty had an agreement that whoever made it to the big time first would give the other guy a call," says Michaels. "I was on the first plane to Minneapolis." Although only 21 years old, Michaels was wrestling in one of the most important federations in the world, and contending for a major title. On January 27 in St. Paul, Minnesota, Michaels realized his dream when he and Jannetty defeated Rose and Somers for the tag team title.

Similar situations have happened before in wrestling and other sports. A man rises to the top fast, almost too fast, and can't handle the notoriety. Jannetty, too, is only 24 years old, perhaps too young to handle the pressure.

Time does not exist in the world of The Midnight Rockers. Nights never end, days never begin. And yet, time is running down, and The Midnight Rockers are burning themselves out. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 8—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 9—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 10—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 11—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 12—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 13—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 14—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 15—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 7—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY

- 8—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 9—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 11—**RICKY SANTANA**
232, Miami, FL

- 12—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 13—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 14—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 15—**BULLDOG BOB BROWN**
258, Kansas City, KS

AWA

- 1—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
- 5—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 6—**D.J. PETERSON**
245, St. Joseph, MO
- 7—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV

- 8—**KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 9—**LEON WHITE**
375, Denver, CO
- 10—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 11—**SUPER NINJA**
263, Japan

- 12—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 13—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan
- 14—**AVALANCHE**
402, Madison, WI
- 15—**BRIAN KNOBBS**
278, Allentown, PA

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 5—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 6—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 7—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
313, New York, NY

- 8—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
265, Tampa, FL
- 9—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Toluca, Mexico
- 10—**KOKO B. WARE**
229, Union City, TN
- 11—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN

- 12—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 13—**KAMALA**
402, Uganda
- 14—**GEORGE STEELE**
298, Detroit, MI
- 15—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
275, Sunset Beach, HI

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

- 4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 7—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 8—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 9—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
- 10—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 11—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

- 12—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 13—**RED RIVER JACK**
284, parts unknown
- 14—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 15—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA

MOST HATED

- 1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 6—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 7—**DANNY DAVIS**
220, Boston, MA

- 8—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 9—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
313, New York, NY
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 11—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
275, Tampa, FL

- 12—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 13—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 14—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 15—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag title
- 2—**MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
WWF World tag team champions
- 4—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
AWA World tag team champions
- 5—**RICK MARTEL & TOM ZENK**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 6—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title
- 7—**TERRY TAYLOR & CHRIS ADAMS**
UWF tag team champions
- 8—**THE FANTASTICS**
World Class tag team champions
- 9—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- 10—**DICK MURDOCH & IVAN KOLOFF**
U.S. tag team champions

- 11—**JIMMY SNUKA & J.T. SOUTHERN**
Mid-Southern International tag team champions
- 12—**THE M.O.D. SQUAD**
Florida tag team champions
- 13—**BIG BUBBA & GOLIATH**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
- 14—**RIP OLIVER & MIKE MILLER**
Pacific Northwest tag team champions
- 15—**BRAD BATTEN & RICK McCORD**
Central States tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended April 2, 1987

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALABAMA CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY

(January 12, 1987; from Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

SUPER STRONG MACHINE & ASHURA HARA

(October 30, 1986; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Aomori, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)

* ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI

(August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL

(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL

(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(January 27, 1987; from Buddy Rose & Doug Somers; St. Paul, MN)

BAHAMAS CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Bad News Allen)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: OWEN HART

(October 25, 1986; from Les Thornton; Edmonton, Alberta)

CALGARY NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: MAKHAN SINGH

(January 30, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Viet Cong Express)

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

(February 22, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Montreal, Quebec)

CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & ARMAND ROUGEAU

(February 8, 1987; from Sheik Ali & Richard Charland; Montreal, Quebec)

* CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BULLDOG BOB BROWN

(February 27, 1987; from Bill Dundee; Kansas City, KS)

* CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD BATTEN & RICK McCORD

(February 27, 1987; from The M.O.D. Squad; Kansas City, KS)

* ENGLISH MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLYING FUJI YAMATA

(March 3, 1987; from The Black Tiger; Croydon, England)

* EUROPEAN HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: LEON WHITE

(March 22, 1987; from Otto Wanz; Denver, CO)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Mike Rotundo)

* FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE M.O.D. SQUAD

(March 15, 1987; from Tracy Smothers & Steve Armstrong; Daytona Beach, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI

(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)

* IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

KEIJI MUTOH & SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(March 20, 1987 tournament final over Akira Maeda & Nobuhiko Takada; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(September 19, 1986; from Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)

JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUKARI OMORI

(August 23, 1986; from Devil Masami; Kawasaki, Japan)

JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Dump Matsumoto & Bull Nakano)

MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Big Bubba)

MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Ronnie Garvin)

MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: AUSTIN IDOL

(February 3, 1987; tournament final over Soul Train Jones; Memphis, TN)

MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: SOUL TRAIN JONES

(January 15, 1987; from Big Bubba; Memphis, TN)

* MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JIMMY SNUKA & J.T. SOUTHERN

(March 2, 1987; from Akio Sato & Tarzan Goto; Memphis, TN)

MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GOLIATH & BIG BUBBA

(February 23, 1987; from The RPMs; Memphis, TN)

* NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LAZER-TRON

(March 7, 1987; from Denny Brown; Atlanta, GA)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES

(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)

NWA TV CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD

(November 27, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Greensboro, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(August 9, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; St. Louis)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE

(December 6, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA

(March 21, 1987; from Rip Oliver; Portland, OR)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIP OLIVER & MIKE MILLER

(March 6, 1987; from Ricky Santana & Cocoa Samoa; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU

(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE

(As mandated by PWF wrestling officials)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPER MACHINE #1

(February 15, 1987; from Superfly Tui; Honolulu, HI)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN

(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

(January 5, 1987; from Rip Rogers; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL

(February 28, 1987; from Tennessee Stud; Chattanooga, TN)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JERRY STUBBS & TONY ANTHONY

(February 23, 1987; from The Nightmares; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM PRITCHARD

(February 27, 1987; from Larry Hamilton; Knoxville, TN)

U.S. CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF

(August 17, 1986; best-of-seven final over Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)

(September 28, 1986; unification victory over National heavyweight champion

Wahoo McDaniel; Atlanta, GA)

* U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DICK MURDOCH & IVAN KOLOFF

(March 14, 1987; from Barry Windham & Ronnie Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ONE MAN GANG

(November 11, 1986; awarded by Terry Gordy's default; Tulsa, OK)

UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY TAYLOR & CHRIS ADAMS

(February 7, 1987; tournament final over Rick Steiner & Sting; Ft. Worth, TX)

* UWF TV CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT

(March 8, 1987; from Savannah Jack; Tulsa, OK)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH

(October 12, 1986; from Black Bart; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH

(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FANTASTICS

(March 4, 1987; from Brian Adias & Al Madril; Lubbock, TX)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(December 1, 1986; from Crusher Yurkof; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: DINGO WARRIOR

(February 2, 1987; from Bob Bradley; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: FRANK LANCASTER

(March 14, 1987; from Invader III; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(January 21, 1987; from Bob Heffernan; Catano, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BOB HEFFERNAN & EL GRAN MENDOZA

(January 6, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Big Red; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MIGHTY IGOR

(January 9, 1987; from Al Perez; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD

(January 6, 1987; from Ron & Chicky Starr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(September 21, 1986; tournament final over Terry Funk; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RICK STEAMBOAT

(March 29, 1987; from Randy Savage; Pontiac, MI)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH

(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)

WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART

(January 26, 1987; from The British Bulldogs; Tampa, FL)

Exclusive Ringside Reports:

BIGGER? BETTER? BADDER? With its bold promotional claim, the World Wrestling Federation challenged itself to outdo any event in the history of professional wrestling. Certainly after three hours and 20 minutes of outrageous action, Vince McMahon could sit back and say that his big event had exceeded anyone's expectations.

A crowd of 93,173, the largest indoor crowd in North American history, viewed the event at the Pontiac Silverdome, some shelling out \$100 for a ringside seat. Millions more watched on closed-circuit broadcasts and pay-per-view television. Certainly nobody could be disappointed.

This was wrestling at its very best, and the staff of *Inside Wrestling* was on hand to record all of the action of this landmark event. So here it is: a match-by-match account of the day that made sports history.

The Can-Am Connection vs. Magnificent Muraco & Cowboy Bob Orton. How's this for an opening match? Rick Martel and Tom Zenk entered the ring to a thunderous ovation and solidified their standing as *the* up-and-coming tag team in the WWF with an impressive victory. The match degenerated into a four-way brawl, but in the end, Martel came off the ropes with a stunning high cross-bodyblock to pin Muraco at 5:37.

Billy Jack Haynes vs. Hercules Hernandez. The acrobatic excellence of the Can-Ams was complemented in the second match by a battle of two awesome musclemen. It ended when Haynes legdropped Hernandez and attempted to apply a full-nelson. Haynes, though, couldn't lock his fingers and Hernandez managed to flip himself and Billy Jack out of the ring. The match was ruled a double-countout at 7:44, but afterward, Bobby Heenan distracted Haynes as Hernandez clocked Billy Jack over the head with his chains. A bloody Haynes was left lying in the ring while Heenan and Hernandez rode off with what they would call a victory.

WRESTLEMANIA MAKES HISTORY!

Over 93,000 fans packed the Pontiac Silverdome to view what may have been the greatest card in wrestling history. *Inside Wrestling* was on hand to bring you a ringside view of this amazing event



Billy Jack Haynes displays his incredible strength by pressing Hercules Hernandez over his head. Both men were counted out, but after the match Hernandez attacked Haynes with his chains and bloodied him.

Little Tokyo, Lord Littlebrook, & King Kong Bundy vs. Little Beaver, The Haiti Kid, & Hillbilly Jim. Call him King Kong Bully. An otherwise forgettable six-man tag team match ended when Bundy caught hold of Little Beaver and delivered a bodyslam and a vicious elbowsmash. This resulted in the

disqualification of Bundy at 3:25, but the lasting image of the match was that of all four midgets screaming at the giant Bundy for his cowardly act.

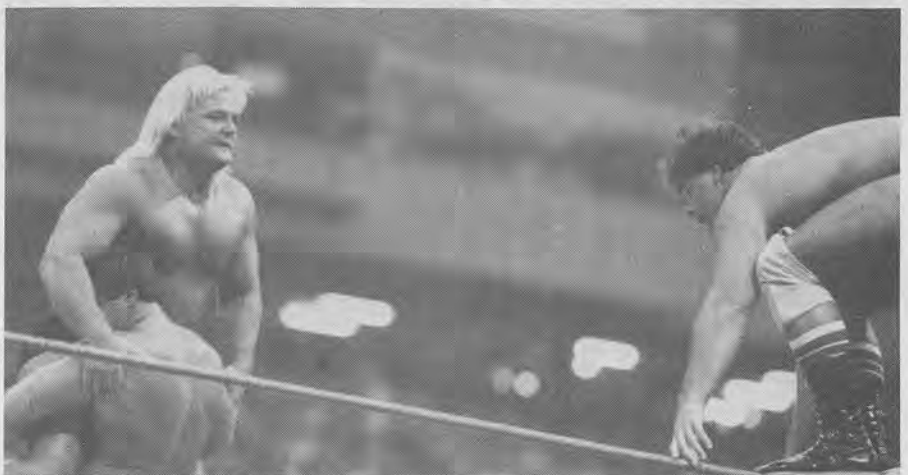
Junkyard Dog vs. Harley Race. The stipulations of this match clearly stated that the winner would have to bow down to the loser, but only after



getting pinned at 4:22 did Junkyard Dog realize what he had gotten into. Race won the match with a belly-to-belly suplex and sat on his throne, preparing to enjoy his reward. JYD managed to summon up a half-curtsy and a semi-bow, but when Race turned his back, the Dog went in for the kill. While the crowd went wild, Junkyard Dog picked up a chair and hit Race over the head. This would certainly be remembered as the most unsportsmanlike act of *WrestleMania III*.

Jacques & Raymond Rougeau vs. Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine (with Johnny V and Dino Bravo).

Without any obvious intentions, Brutus Beefcake turned good. Greg Valentine went wild after Beefcake accidentally hit him during a mid-ring scuffle. Afterward, Valentine, Johnny V and Dino Bravo left Brutus standing alone in the middle of the ring. All in all, this was an incredible match with an incredible finish: Raymond Rougeau had Valentine pinned, but the ref was distracted by a fight in the far corner. Bravo then hit Raymond to break the pin and placed Valentine



As Raymond Rougeau holds Greg Valentine in position, Jacques Rougeau prepares to give "The Hammer" a flying clothesline. The Rougeaus lost, however.

over Rougeau. Just then, the ref turned around and called the pin after 4:03 of non-stop action.

Roddy Piper vs. Adrian Adonis (with Jimmy Hart). Beefcake comes to the rescue, Adonis loses his hair (or at least some of it), and Piper goes out in a blaze of glory. Actually, the promised hair shaving was very disappointing. Beefcake, who did the job for Piper after Adonis fell victim to a sleeperhold at 6:20, was equipped with a rather ineffec-

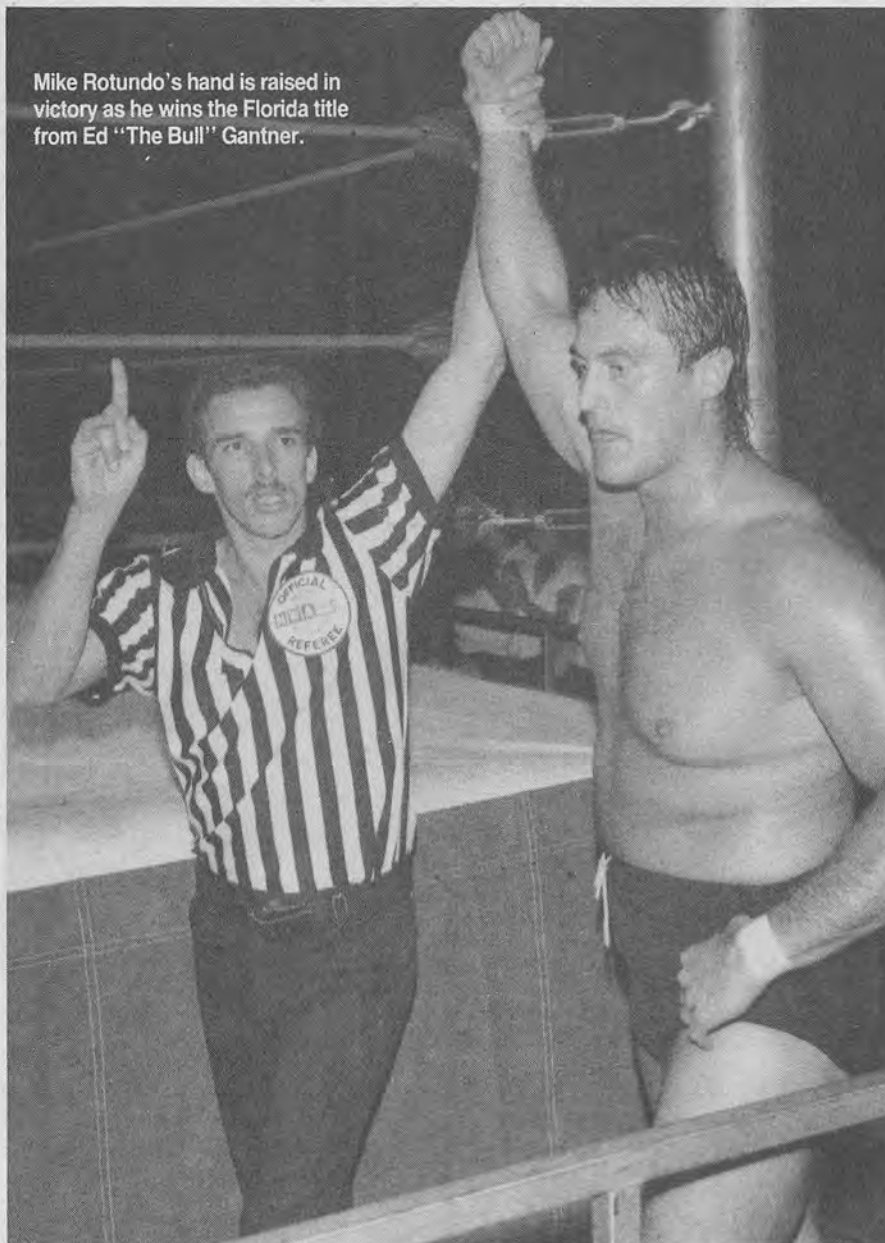
tive razor. (Perhaps the WWF should have called in Paul Jones to do the job.) However, Adonis was sufficiently disgraced and Piper rode back to the dressing room, soaking in the cheers of the fans for the final time. It was a touching moment.

The British Bulldogs & Tito Santana vs. The Hart Foundation & Danny Davis. Danny Davis gets his. The Bulldogs and Santana wanted re-
(Continued on page 54)

New Promoter, New Look, New Champion:

MIKE ROTUNDO WINS THE FLORIDA TITLE!

Mike Rotundo's hand is raised in victory as he wins the Florida title from Ed "The Bull" Gantner.



MIKE ROTUNDO HAS captured the Florida title. That's big news, for sure. But if that news doesn't receive the attention it deserves from the fans and media, the new champion will certainly understand. Rotundo has been involved in enough wrestling politics to understand the significance of the real big news item coming out of the Sunshine State. Jim Crockett, promoter of wrestling's second-largest wrestling organization—World Championship Wrestling—has taken over the Florida area.

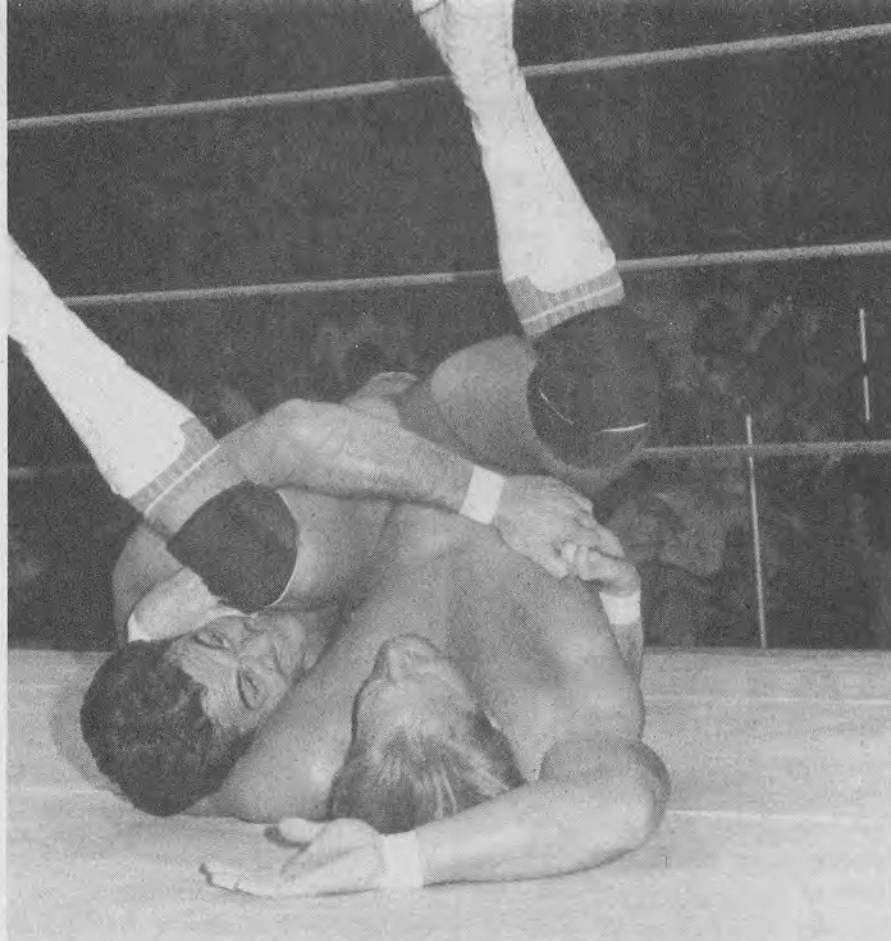
"We here at Jim Crockett Promotions are excited about the prospect of bringing the best in wrestling to the fans of Florida," Crockett said at a press conference announcing the takeover. "This is a change we have been planning for many months, and we are confident that it will be successful."

The takeover is similar to one that took place in 1985, when Crockett, whose promotion at the time was restricted to the Mid-Atlantic region, began promoting Georgia Championship Wrestling.

According to early plans, all the major stars of the World Championship area will be appearing in Florida at one time or another. Some existing Florida talent, likewise, will be included on the major WCW cards, Starrcade, the Great American Bash, and the Crockett Cup. Also, NWA

Not only has Mike Rotundo won the Florida state championship, he has helped begin a new era for wrestling in the Sunshine State. Jim Crockett Promotions has taken over in Florida, and the wrestlers and fans involved are very excited about the future of wrestling in that area

Photos by Duane Long & Bill Otten



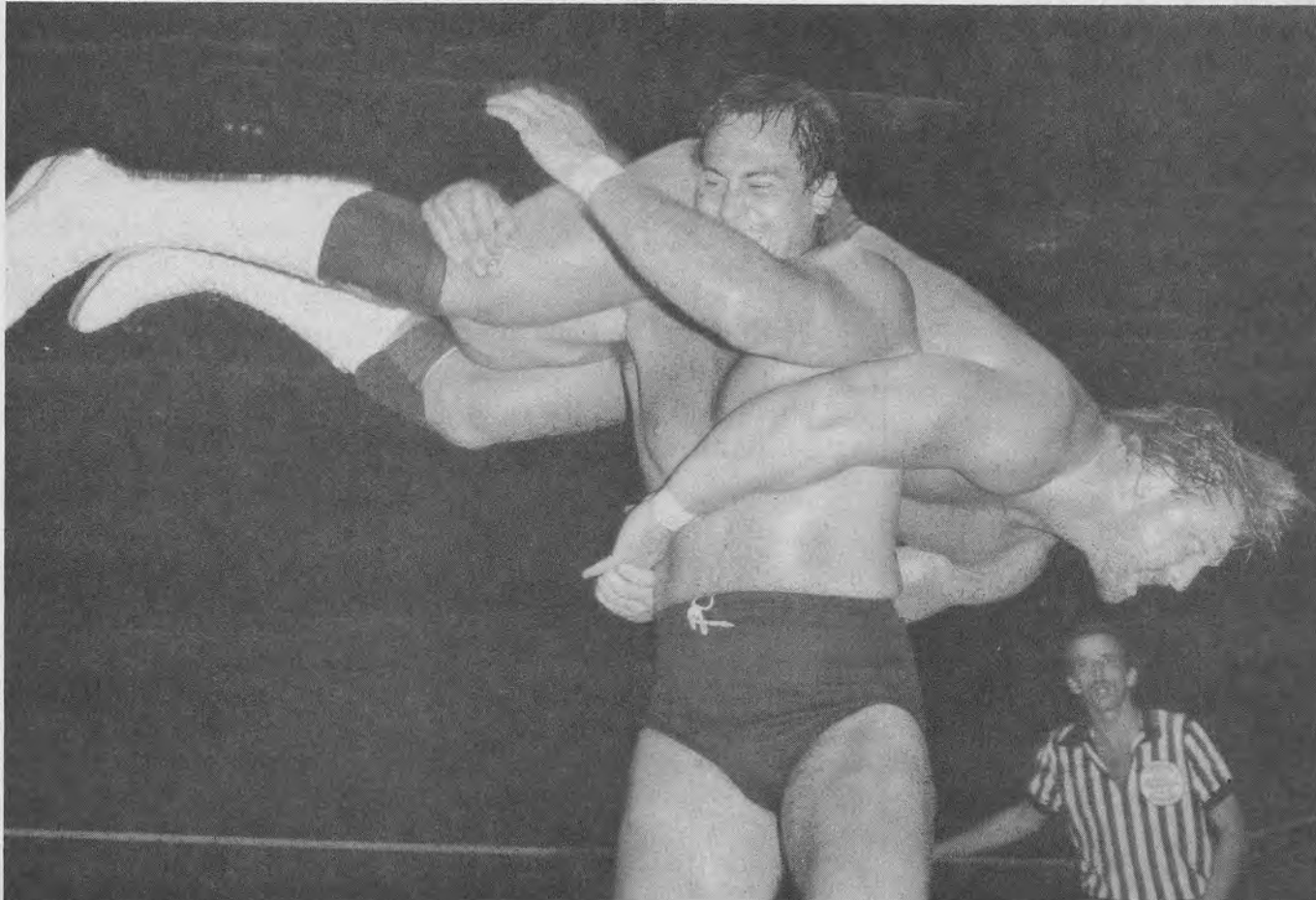
Rotundo rolls up Gantner for a pin attempt (above) and catches him in his famous airplane spin (below). When Jim Crockett started promoting Florida wrestling, Rotundo immediately set his sights on that state's championship.

World champion Ric Flair, whose defenses in Florida have been limited in recent months, will make more frequent title defenses in the Sunshine State.

The most immediate effect of the World Championship expansion into Florida, obviously, has been on the careers of Mike Rotundo and now former champion Ed "The Bull" Gantner. Rotundo certainly did not expect to return to Florida when he left the WWF in February. "I came to the World Championship area before I heard about the Florida situation," he said. "I didn't expect to go after the Florida title. My intention was to go after Ric Flair and maybe find a tag team partner. But when the opportunity came along, I jumped at it."

It didn't take long for Rotundo to win the title from Gantner. Sir Oliver Humperdink, Gantner's manager, was not at ringside, so Gantner was no match for the more experienced Rotundo. In a match lasting less than five minutes, the former two-time WWF

(Continued on page 62)



HOTSEAT

DANNY DAVIS

"I'VE BECOME A LETHAL WEAPON!"

WHEN REFEREE DANNY Davis was suspended for life by World Wrestling Federation President Jack Tunney, he didn't have to go jobless for long. Less than a half hour later, manager Jimmy Hart came to the ring with Jim Neidhart and Brett Hart to introduce the newest member of The Hart Foundation.

It was none other than Davis. In one fell swoop, one WWF controversy had ended and another had begun. Those who had been disgusted by Davis' often questionable officiating over the past months couldn't have been surprised. Soon after arrival in the WWF, Davis became known as "The Rulebreaker's Ref." "Coincidences" were commonplace in the matches Davis officiated. He usually had his back turned when a rulebreaker was doing something illegal to a fan favorite. When the opposite occurred, he generally caught every move.

Fans complained. Wrestlers were irate. Tag team matches became the equivalent of three-on-twos. Fan favorites rarely won when Davis was working a match. Even Vince McMahon expressed outrage at Davis' tactics. But nothing was done until Tunney finally intervened.

Unfortunately for The British Bulldogs, Tunney was a little too late. Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith lost

their belts to The Hart Foundation on January 26 in Tampa and only had Davis to blame. After Dynamite Kid (who was coming in to the match injured) was knocked off the ring apron, Davis spent the rest of the match trying to get him back into the ring. While Davis' back was turned, Neidhart and Hart double-teamed Smith. When Davis finally returned to the ring, Neidhart pinned Smith.

“

I fit into The Hart Foundation like the wheels on a new car. I am the final part that makes them go.

”

This was the last straw. Why was Davis outside the ring attending to Dynamite Kid? Why did he suddenly return to the ring? Well, the answer might have come later when Davis joined The Hart Foundation. But this was only salt in the wound for the Bulldogs. Their title was lost in the most controversial way possible.

The Bulldogs, however, will get their shot at Davis. As of press time, The British Bulldogs and Tito Santana were scheduled to take on The Hart Foundation and Danny Davis at WrestleMania III in the Pontiac Silverdome. Most of the attention in that match figures to be on Davis, and Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum spoke with the controversial ref-turned-wrestler at a special WrestleMania III press conference at Madison Square Garden.

Q: Danny, almost everybody in wrestling knows who you are—you've certainly made a name for yourself very quickly—but I don't think too many people know much about you. Tell us a little bit about Danny Davis. You're from Boston, aren't you?

A: That's right. I went to Brockton High School in Boston and went to college at Elmira in upstate New York.

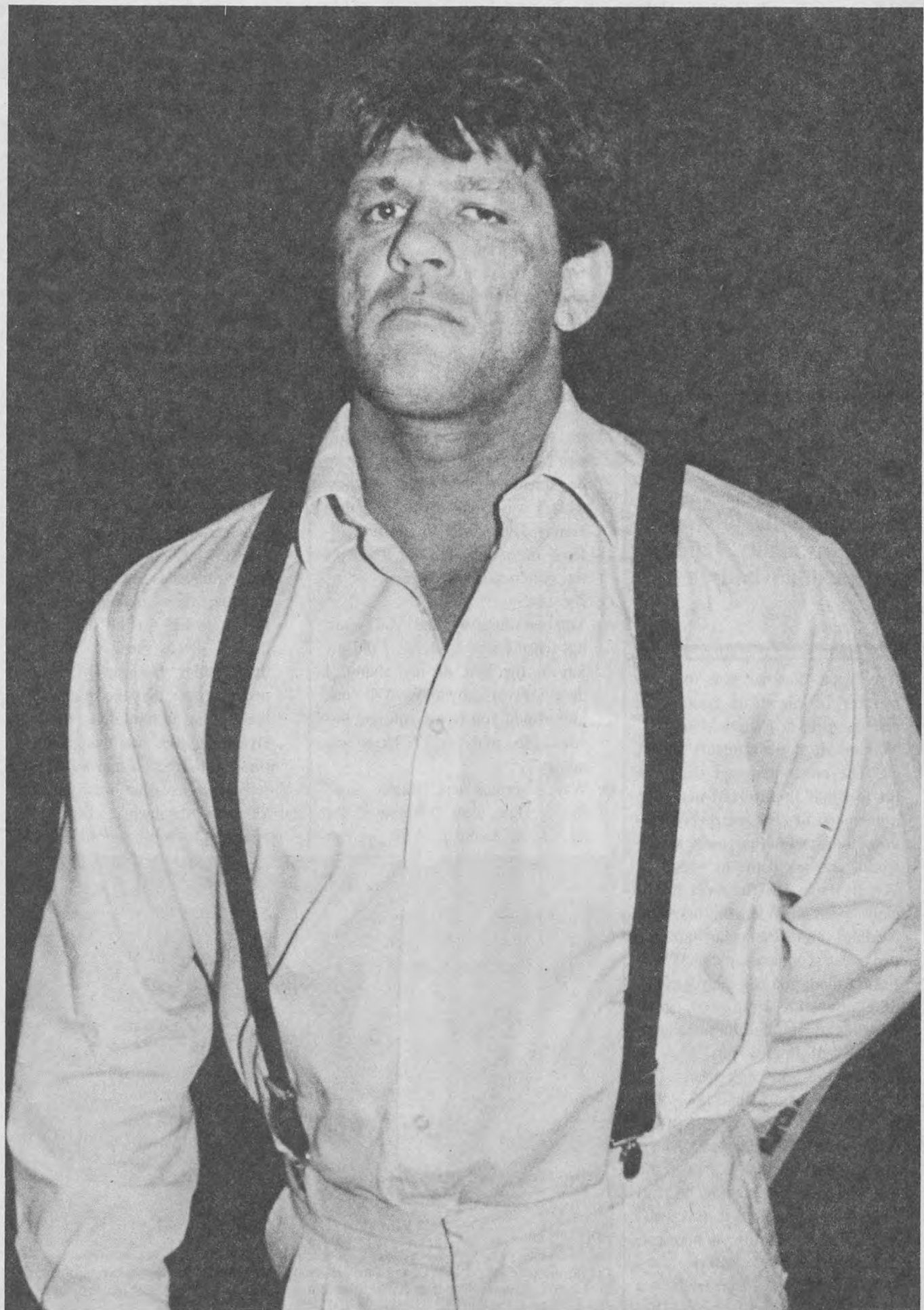
Q: When was that?

A: About 10 years ago.

Q: Did you wrestle in college? Actually, the question should be, do you have any prior wrestling experience at all?

A: Nothing at all, except I used to watch it all the time.

Q: I guess the next question is obvious. If you've never wrestled be-





“

You can believe what you want, but when I was a referee, I did the job to the best of my ability. I didn't favor anybody.

”

fore, what qualifies you to be a member of The Hart Foundation and compete at WrestleMania III.

A: Nothing. It doesn't qualify me at all. The only thing that counts is the fact that Jimmy Hart made me a member of The Hart Foundation, the greatest tag team in the world, and asked me to wrestle at WrestleMania III, the most prestigious event in WWF history. Jim Neidhart and Brett Hart are the two greatest athletes in the WWF. I don't think you can deny it. They have strength, size, speed, great wrestling ability, and the managerial genius of Jimmy Hart. That's a combination you can't beat.

Q: So where do you fit into this whole picture?

A: Jimmy Hart has made me great. I have become a lethal weapon. I am the final part that makes The Hart Foundation go. Put it this way. You go out and buy a new car. Beautiful interior, leather seats, shiny exterior, goes from zero to a hundred in the blink of an eye. I'm

the wheels on that car. I fit into The Hart Foundation like the wheels on a new car. Yeah, that's it. I like that!

Q: Interesting. But let's get right to the point. There are a lot of people out there, myself included, who feel that you were a fraud from the start. Let's put it bluntly: Even when you were supposedly an unbiased official, you were on the payroll of Jimmy Hart. You just didn't come out and admit it until Tunney finally suspended you for life.

A: Nonsense. Typical media crap. I was unemployed. Jack Tunney fired me for no reason at all. I was just doing my job. You people just don't understand what it's like to be unemployed. I didn't know what I was going to do, and then Jimmy Hart came to me and offered me a job. He did it out of the goodness of his heart.

Q: I'm sure.

A: You can believe what you want, but when I was a referee, I did my job to the best of my ability. I didn't favor anybody. Tell me, how would you feel if you had lost your job and didn't have any money?

Q: Wait a second here, Danny. Let's face it. You were unemployed for all of 30 minutes. You weren't

even unemployed long enough to miss a meal.

A: It doesn't matter. It's an unbelievable strain on your mind to not have a job. I only have Jimmy Hart to thank.

Q: And now you say he's turned you into a lethal weapon. Tell me about that weapon. What can we expect from Danny Davis?

A: All I can say is that these guys have worked with me in the ring, in the gym, and have revealed all their strategies and secrets to me. I am fully a member of The Hart Foundation and will perform like one of them. The Dogs and Santana are gonna be in for a big surprise.

Q: Well, I think everybody was surprised when the Bulldogs lost the tag belts to The Hart Foundation. You certainly had a part in that match.

A: More ridiculous accusations. I was standing there making sure that Dynamite Kid was all right, and if he was, I was going to disqualify the Bulldogs. The rules of tag team matches state that the man outside the ring has to hold on to the rope. Dynamite Kid was lying on the floor and I think I had a duty as a referee to see what was going on.

Q: Yes, but meanwhile, Davey Boy Smith was getting double-teamed



During his officiating days, Danny Davis gives a warning to Roddy Piper. It was obvious to fans and wrestlers alike that Davis went out of his way to favor rulebreakers. Davis, of course, will not admit this.



Brett and Jimmy Hart, Davis, and Jim Neidhart tell their story at the pre-WrestleMania III press conference in New York (above). Davis taunts the referee in his first public appearance as a member of the Foundation (right).



“

The WWF thought they could get rid of me by suspending me from being a referee. They thought wrong. Now they're stuck with me.

”



team in the world and they did it under the tutelage of Jimmy Hart, a great man with a great mind.

Q: I think you were brainwashed.

A: Listen, the Bulldogs lost the title and everybody blamed it on me. All I heard was “Danny Davis this, Danny Davis that.” It’s the same old story. The fans always complain when one of their favorites lose, but that’s the way it is. There are winners, and there are losers. The Hart Foundation is made up of winners.

Q: You’ve said a number of times that you’re upset over Tito Santana’s involvement in the match at Wres-

tleMania III. Why?

A: ‘Cause I don’t have any idea what he’s doing in the match in the first place. What does he have to do with The British Bulldogs? It’s just like Santana to stick his nose in other people’s business. This is between The British Bulldogs and The Hart Foundation. But if Santana wants to get nosey, I guarantee you, he’ll pay the price.

Q: You seem very happy about the way things have developed.

A: Why shouldn’t I be? I have money, friends, and I’m with the World tag team champions. Things have turned out pretty good. You see, the WWF thought they could get rid of me by suspending me from being a referee. Well, they thought wrong. Now, they’re stuck with me and they’re stuck with those incompetents who pass themselves off as referees. Danny Davis is here to stay, as a member of The Hart Foundation. And I only have Jack Tunney and Jimmy Hart to thank. □

by The Hart Foundation.

A: That’s all conjecture. I didn’t see that happen.

Q: Of course. You were standing outside the ring. But when Neidhart pinned Davey Boy, you turned around pretty quickly.

A: Referee’s instinct. I’ve been trained to detect when something important is going to happen. I could tell by the roar of the crowd that I had to get back into the ring.

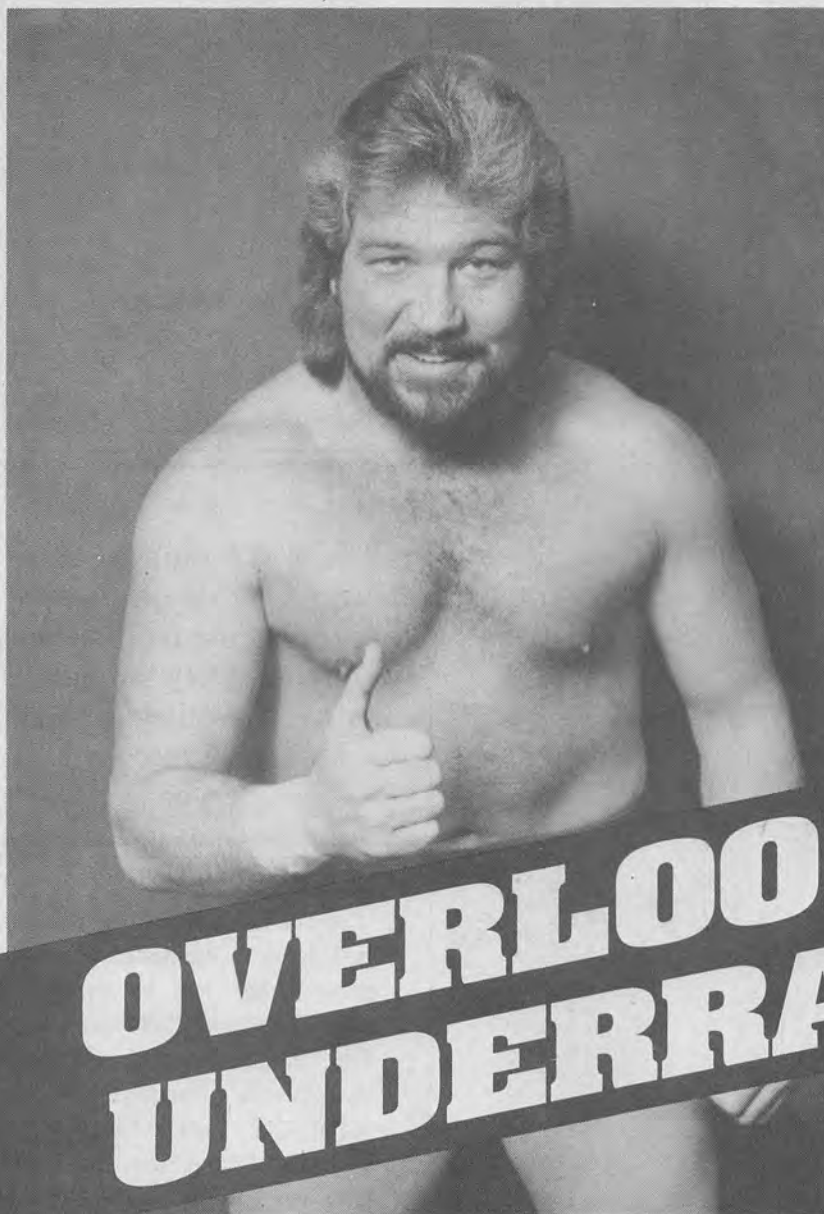
Q: This is ridiculous. Your explanation is absolutely ludicrous.

A: Take it or leave it. That’s all I can say.

Q: Jimmy Hart seems to have trained you pretty well in the art of doubletalk. So you obviously don’t think the Bulldogs had any reason to complain, do you?

A: All I know is that a wrestling match took place. The British Bulldogs walked in with the belts. The Hart Foundation walked out with the belts. Those are the facts. The Hart Foundation is the greatest tag

Ted DiBiase's Inner Rage:



**OVERLOOKED,
UNDERRATED-**

**BUT ON THE
WAY TO THE
UWF TITLE!**

THOSE IN THE know, people who call themselves wrestling experts, recognize the brilliance of Ted DiBiase. They look at DiBiase and see a man with an outstanding scientific repertoire, plus the ability to brawl with the toughest men in the sport. They see a man who has been near or at the top of the ratings wherever he has gone. But to the fans, those who pay the money to see matches, Ted DiBiase is . . .

"Boring!" says Tracy Summers of Houston. "I know he's a really good wrestler, but he doesn't get my blood pumping like 'Dr. Death' does and Hacksaw [Duggan] used to do. It's just that, I don't know, I like wrestlers with great

bodies and DiBiase's body is nothing special. I really like him a lot, though. Really!"

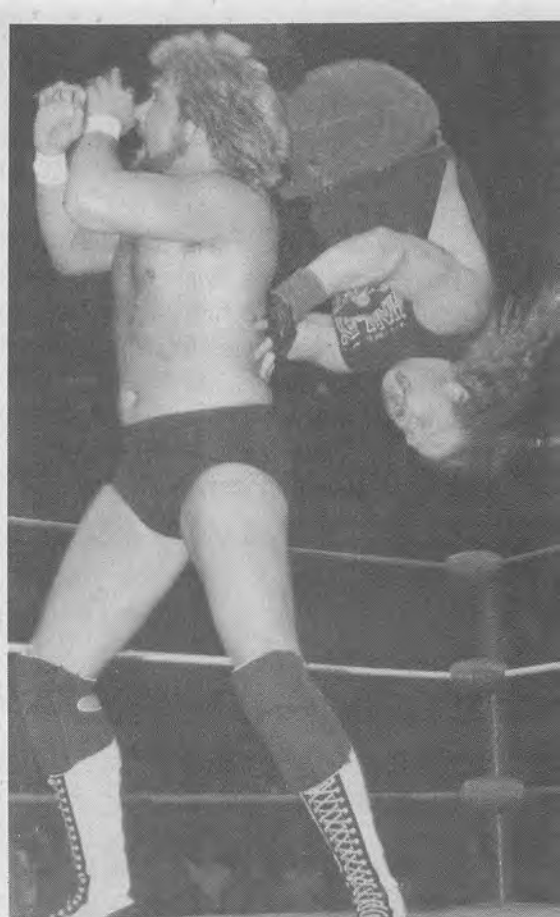
"Non-descript," says Larry Havens of San Antonio. "I really don't know how to describe it, but I'm never sure what he's doing. I guess from a purist's standpoint, he's a very fine wrestler, but I like to see action, I like to see guys going out of their minds, and DiBiase always seems to be on an even keel."

"Underrated," says Jack Davis of Dallas. "I guess that's what really gets to the heart of the mat-

For 13 years, Ted DiBiase has built a reputation as one of the sport's top wrestlers. Yet, to many fans, he's just another challenger. But don't look now! DiBiase has his eyes on One Man Gang, and the UWF title might soon be his!



Ted DiBiase, one of the best—and most underrated—wrestlers in the UWF, twists Chris Adams' leg (above), backflips Bill Irwin (right), and punches Gen. Skandor Akbar (below). DiBiase is angry because he is not getting the recognition that more flamboyant wrestlers receive.



ter. I know you guys rate him pretty high, but the people in the UWF don't seem to respect him. They'd rather put Williams or The Freebirds in their main events than DiBiase. If you ask me, he's getting a raw deal."

And that, finally, brings us closer to the heart of the matter. Ever since Mid-South wrestling became the Universal Wrestling Federation, promoters have banked on Hacksaw Duggan, The Fabulous Freebirds, Steve Williams, and Terry Taylor to sell their product. These were the main event stars. All the others would have to wait on line.

"I figured that when Hacksaw left, I'd get a little more attention," says DiBiase, "but that didn't happen at all. I finally had to go up to one of the officials and demand a series of title shots at One Man Gang. Listen, I'm not one to brag, but I'll match myself against any wrestler in the UWF. I think I've proven myself. Obviously, other people don't think so. You're asking me if it bothers me? You're damn right it does!"

Certainly, DiBiase is not as "non-descript" or "boring" as some fans would like to think. Last summer, DiBiase and Williams engaged in a red-hot feud with The Freebirds. Eventually, Terry Gordy gave Williams a pile-driver that landed him in the hospital. DiBiase vowed revenge, recalling a similar incident he suffered a few years ago in Atlanta at the hands of The Freebirds. The fans rallied behind DiBiase.



DiBiase readies a punch for his old foe, Michael Hayes (above). Fans crowd around DiBiase to get his autograph (right). He believes he will win the UWF title, if he gets a fair amount of chances.

But when Williams came back, the attention shifted. It was always Williams and DiBiase, never DiBiase and Williams. This might sound like a trite point, but it's significant when considered alongside the bigger picture. DiBiase has always been the second man, despite 13 outstanding years in the sport.

His detractors ask, "What's he won?" and DiBiase can proudly bring up his two Missouri titles, two Georgia titles, one Georgia tag team title, numerous Mid-South tag team titles, and North American titles in both the Mid-South and WWF. Then they ask, "What major titles has he won?"

and DiBiase is left speechless.

But titles don't always tell the whole story. Andre the Giant, perhaps the most famous wrestler of all time, has never won a major title. There are many lesser, but still great, stars who fit into the same category. DiBiase can call himself the equal of any wrestler in the sport, but he doesn't have a major belt to back up his claim.

That might change very shortly. As DiBiase indicated, he is beginning a series of matches against UWF champion One Man Gang, who has held the title since early last November. There have been numerous signs that Gang is getting tired and suffering from the mismanagement of Gen. Skandor Akbar. The challenge of DiBiase might be too much for Gang to handle.

One Man Gang is a one-dimensional wrestler. He relies on his near-500 pounds to overpower and overwhelm his opponents. He lacks agility, speed, and stamina. He has yet to learn a solitary scientific maneuver. Often, Akbar must interfere to save his man. It's amazing that Gang has held a title for so long, but there's a very

good reason for his success.

Since claiming the UWF title by default from Terry Gordy, Gang has yet to take on a well-rounded challenger. Terry Taylor is a scientific wrestler, not a brawler. Duggan and Williams are basically brawlers. But DiBiase is both. He can go all out with Gang for 10 minutes to wear down the champion, then use his scientific skills to get the pin.

Those who look at DiBiase and see a 245-pound man with only average muscle tone might laugh at this. The truth is that DiBiase has never backed down from a challenge. He's never been overpowered. He rarely gets outwrestled. "It bothers me that people only respect the muscle-men," says DiBiase. "They don't realize that this isn't weightlifting. It's wrestling, and it takes more than muscle. It takes brains, skill, and endurance."

DiBiase has all three. Call him boring. Call him non-descript. Say that he doesn't send chills through your spine. But don't call him a bad wrestler.

Soon, he just might be UWF champion! □



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

ONE ON ONE



WRESTLING FANS WERE shocked when they saw Ole Anderson attack Tully Blanchard during a telecast of *World Championship Wrestling* on WTBS. A rift within The Four Horsemen? The most notorious cooperative in the sport was falling apart? How could it be? These men are family!

There's family ... and there's family.

Ole and Arn Anderson and Ric Flair are cousins. Tully Blanchard rounded out the quartet to complete The Four Horsemen. Lex Luger came along and, while not officially made a Horseman, was granted Horseman Associate status by manager J.J. Dillon.

It all began to unravel when Ole went to see his son wrestle in a high school tournament rather than fulfill a match obligation with the Horsemen. This angered Tully and Arn, and they were vocal about it.

Ole felt that Tully's griping was out of line. After all, Ole reasoned, Tully isn't family. He's an outsider. And when Tully continued to gripe—on the air at WTBS—Ole had something to say about it. He cursed Tully and attacked him, and the two men brawled their way through the plywood and sandbags of the sets at WTBS.

The differences grew. Ole was insulted that Arn and Tully could not understand Ole's wishes to see his son

wrestle. Arn and Tully could not understand why Ole would turn his back on the Horsemen.

And Luger—well, Luger is a man in the right place at the right time; he's stepped in and filled the void left by Ole's departure.

The Horsemen are family to Ole, but so is his son. Like we said, there's family and there's family.

As of this interview, Ric Flair had yet to speak out on the Horsemen situation. However, the opportunity arose here at *Inside Wrestling* to bring Ole and Arn together to discuss that situation ... "One on One."

OLE ANDERSON:

I'm not even sure I should be talking to you, cuz. You have a lot of damn nerve turning your back on a member of your family

"Where the hell were you when the Horsemen needed you? Watching your snot-nosed kid wrestle."

—Arn Anderson

when you know that the Horsemen were supposed to be all family in the first place. Now you're ready to stand beside two outsiders. That proves to me what kind of man you really are.

ARN ANDERSON:

Two outsiders? That's a load of crap! Flair is as much family blood as you are, and right now maybe more, going by your actions. Tully, judging by his actions and loyalty, acts more like family than you've done in months. Some family you are. Bah!

OA: You don't even know what I'm talking about, Arn. Whattya think I am, some kind of fool?

AA: No fool like an old fool.

OA: I know as well as you do that Ric's family. I'm talking about

N ONE



"I don't have to make any excuses to you. You don't know anything about loyalty and family."

—Ole Anderson

Tully, Luger, and now that I think about it, Dillon. That's what this really comes down to, Arn. I could have settled things with Blanchard by myself, but then J.J. had to get on the air, in front of a national television audience, and demand a public apology. Well, nobody's gonna make me the laughingstock of the country.

AA: Oh, give me a break. Why don't you just tell the truth, that you're jealous.

OA: Jealous? You must be going crazy, Arn. I don't know what the heck you're talking about. Tell me, backstabber, what do I have to be jealous about?

AA: About the fact that Luger had become an associate. You couldn't handle it. He's young, strong,

looking at a bright future. You're looking back on the past. You're future is limited, Luger's is wide open. You can't tell me that all of this didn't bug you.

OA: You're wrong, buster. You couldn't be much wronger. I was happy for Luger. I thought he was a great addition to the Horsemen. But what bugs me is that everything's gotten out of hand. Me and Gene [Anderson], when we founded the Horsemen, it was supposed to be a family thing. Then we let Tully in, but he got too big for himself. He started thinking that he was bigger than the family. Well, that's what happens when you let outsiders in. Now you've ruined everything, Arn. What gets me is that you didn't back me up. This has noth-

ing to do with jealousy over Luger.

AA: I didn't back you up? Where the hell were you when the Horsemen needed you? Watching your snot-nosed kid wrestle. Listen, buddy, take care of number one first, take care of yourself and take care of the Horsemen, then you can take care of your kids. But you forgot about number one, you forgot about us, and you placed your kid in front of everything. That's garbage. Don't you have any loyalties to the ring or to your business and professional partners? Obviously not.

OA: You've just totally lost track of reality, Arn. You'd better believe I put my kid before anything else. That boy is my flesh and blood and he wanted his father there one day.

AA: Me and Ric are flesh and blood, and we didn't want you, we *needed* you.

OA: Listen, buddy, I don't have to make any excuses to you. You just keep on forgetting that the Horsemen are family and that's what it was all about. You don't know anything about loyalty and family. I thought you'd understand, but I misjudged you. Listen to me, Arn. Don't be surprised if the Horsemen do the same thing to you that they did to me. What goes around comes around. Just remember that.

AA: The Horsemen didn't do anything to you, you turned on the Horsemen. And you're right. What goes around *does* come around, and it's going to come down right on your fat head. If you ask me, Luger will be a better Horseman than you ever were. The Horsemen are more than just family, we're loyalty. And now we're younger, stronger, and better than ever. And you—you're just looking at the tail end of a mediocre career. And when the Horsemen are done with you, you'll be looking at it with your face mashed into the canvas. Enjoy, buddy. □

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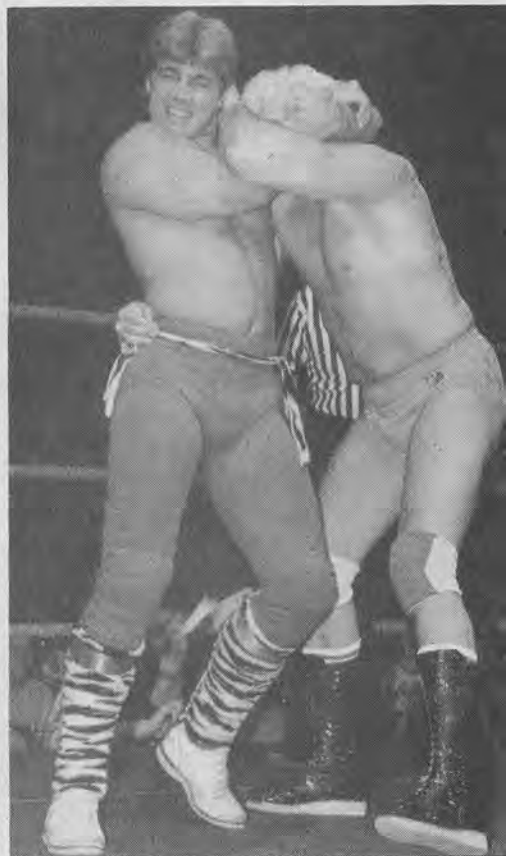


Spring 1987

Color centerfold:
The Four Horsemen

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)



Midnight Rocker Shawn Michaels headlocks Doug Somers. Richie Bonaventure writes that the Rockers should leave the AWA for the NWA.

for a long time.

I have one startling statement to make, however. Although the Rockers did win the title, I still think it's time for them to make their move and get out of the AWA. They have already beaten all of the competition in the AWA and there really doesn't seem to be any good teams on the horizon. Marty and Shawn have outgrown the AWA and will never get any more recognition.

If Marty and Shawn really want to become famous, they should move on to the NWA, where I'm sure they could wrestle alongside teams like The Road Warriors, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Midnight Express, Rick Rude and Manny Fernandez, and The Superpowers. Then, everybody would know that The Midnight Rockers aren't just an imitation. They're the greatest tag team in the world!

RICHIE BONAVENTURE
San Francisco

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RED RIVER BRODY?

I used to be a big fan of Bruiser Brody's, but not anymore. I can't believe he would put on that stupid mask of his and go around as Red River Jack, and then deny that it's him with the mask on. Anybody with an ounce of brains would know that Red River Jack is Bruiser Brody.

First of all, there's the jeans. Then, there's Brody's trademark beard, and his body. I'd know Brody anywhere! Well, Brody might think he's only trying to fool Gary Hart, but he's also fooling the fans and World Class officials. If he was a real man, he'd take his loss to Abdullah the Butcher and stay out of town, just like the rules stated.

I always thought that even though Brody was a madman, he was one of the best wrestlers in the world, if not *the* best, and wouldn't stoop to such low tricks. Bruiser, I'm disappointed.

RALPH RICCIO

Dallas

ADVANTAGE, McMAHON

I have just finished watching a tape of the past week's WWF TV matches and I am in mild shock. It seems like it was only last year when "Cowboy" Bill Watts was berating the WWF in a number of your magazines. Now, it looks like Vince McMahon has the last laugh. Hacksaw Jim Duggan, the cornerstone of the UWF, has entered the WWF.

In fact, look at the top wrestlers of the Mid-South from a year ago—Jake Roberts, Koko B. Ware, Kamala, and Dick Slater. They're all now in the WWF. The UWF is a federation on the brink of mediocrity. Their Top 10 list is their only 10 good wrestlers, and four out of the 10 are debatable. Maybe if Bill Watts uses some common sense and apologizes to the WWF, instead of using his no-nonsense Western honor approach, McMahon might send Lanny Poffo, Steve Lombardi, Barry O, and Paul Roma to bail out the UWF.

TOM BLAIR

Baldwin, MD

(Continued on page 50)

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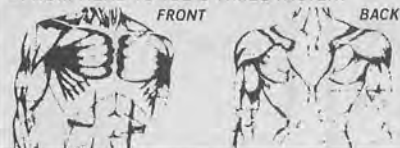
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

REMEMBERING GINO

It's been over a year now since he died. Although he was described as arrogant, conceited, egotistical, and although his last act in the ring was sadistic, he had that touch of class that made him a truly special person. Gino Hernandez was a man of superb wrestling ability. He had a certain pizzazz that made the people in the World Class area want to watch him if for no other reason than to see what he would do next.

Gino was a very classy wrestler. He and Chris Adams were truly a dynamic team. Chris still has that pizzazz, that electricity that gets people excited when he gets into the ring. And if Brian Adias and Al Madril think that they can copy or match that class, they can quit trying right now because they'll never make it.



The late Gino Hernandez has not been forgotten by Vivian and Ginger Wilson, two fans who believe that he was a classy wrestler.

Although my favorite wrestler in the whole world will always be Kerry Von Erich, Gino Hernandez has a special place in my heart. I know a lot of other tragedies happened in 1986 to overshadow his death, but please, let's not forget Gino Hernandez. Texas wrestling will never be the same.

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MURDOCH'S MISTAKE

I was watching NWA wrestling on TV and saw Dick Murdoch turn against Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream." Murdoch attacked Nikita Koff, and then, when Dusty came out to question him, Murdoch attacked The Dream. I was shocked that after all they had been through, Murdoch did this to Dusty.

When I started following wrestling at age 12, Rhodes and Murdoch were the tag team that ruled the area. I saw them defeat Blackjack Mulligan and Blackjack Lanza. They wrestled together, drank together—they were like best friends. And now Murdoch does this.

Joining the Russians was a stupid move. Every person that has tried to hurt Dusty has paid the price. Ole Anderson had his ankle broken, Ric Flair lost his title to Dusty during the Great American Bash, and Arn Anderson lost the NWA TV title to Dusty, to name a few incidents of payback.

(Continued on page 52)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 51)



Tommy Rich ambars Jerry Lawler. Although Rich held the NWA title for only four days, that is four days more than many great wrestlers can claim, writes Judy Grondin. She is a loyal fan of Rich's, despite his rulebreaking ways.

When Magnum T.A. had his auto accident, Nikita made the move. He made his own choice and Dusty respected that. The Superpowers have become one excellent tag team, and Murdoch doing what he's done will only tighten the bond between them.

Wahoo McDaniel went this route once before, but learned that you can't turn your back on your friends. Murdoch, along with The Four Horsemen and The Russians, will learn one thing: Dusty Rhodes fights for what he believes in, for truth, justice, and the American way. He has the people with him and nobody can beat the people. Nobody can break the bond and nobody can put out The American Dream.

BILL M. WALKOWITZ
Chicago

RICH ON FIRE

So what if Tommy Rich has turned rulebreaker? I have followed his career since the early 1980s and he will always be my favorite wrestler.

I admit the feud with Buddy Sawyer took its toll on Tommy and his career has suffered. But let's not forget one thing: "Wildfire" held the NWA World championship belt for four days. That is four days longer than most wrestlers can boast about. There

is no doubt that Tommy was too young to handle the pressures of being champion. However, he did hold that belt for four days and his name will always be listed in that category.

Can Jerry Lawler, the self proclaimed "King of Wrestling," fit into that same category? We all know the answer to that is no. In my opinion, Lawler is a wimp and I hope Wildfire kicks his butt all over Tennessee.

If you are reading this, Tommy, rest assured. You still have one loyal fan and I hope you do whatever you must to get the recognition you truly deserve.

JUDY GRONDIN
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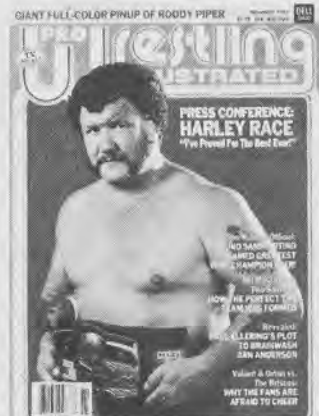
April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

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May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

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April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.



MAY 1986

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

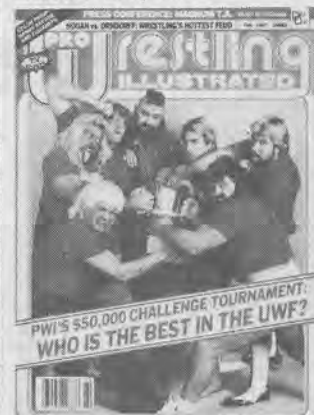
August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

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February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

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WRESTLEMANIA III

(Continued from page 35)



The British Bulldogs throw Danny Davis out of the ring. The Bulldogs were finally getting their revenge on the man who cost them the WWF tag team title. The Hart Foundation won the belts because of Davis' bad refereeing.

venge; they got it. The Hart Foundation and Davis won the match, but nobody seemed to care. Davis took a brutal beating from Dynamite Kid, Davey Boy Smith, and Santana, and had to be carried back to the dressing room. Ironically, poor refereeing by Dave Hebner cost the Bulldogs the match. Hebner was distracted in one corner by Dynamite Kid, Santana, Brett Hart, and Jim Neidhart long enough for Davis to smash Davey Boy across the head with Jimmy Hart's megaphone. Davey Boy was knocked flat on his back and Davis scored the pin at 8:52.

Koko B. Ware vs. Butch Reed (with Slick). For any matches to be called great, there have to be a certain number of other truly awful matches on the card against which to compare them. This one certainly fit the "other" bill. After only 3:39, Koko executed a high cross-bodyblock, but Reed caught him and, with one motion, flipped Ware over for the pin. Afterward, Slick attacked Koko, but Santana ran into the ring and tore Slick's clothes to shreds. Next match.

Rick Steamboat (with George Steele) vs. Randy Savage (with Elizabeth). The match by which all others will be judged in 1987. This unforgettable battle had an amazing 19 two-counts, 11 by Steamboat. Only outside interference by Steele kept Savage from slamming the timekeeper's bell into Steamboat's throat for the second time in three months. This match never stopped moving and displayed these two



Rick Steamboat claims the Intercontinental belt after an impressive victory over Randy Savage.

superstars at their very best. Savage would have successfully defended his Intercontinental title, but referee Dave Hebner had been accidentally knocked out while the "Macho Man" applied a pin for about 15 seconds. The match came to a sudden ending when Savage mounted the turnbuckle with the time bell but got pushed off by Steele. With Savage lying on the floor, Steamboat executed a reverse small package for the pin and the title at 14:35. The Macho Man was stunned. After holding the belt for 13 months, his reign of terror was over. The Dragon had gotten revenge.

Jake Roberts (with Alice Cooper) vs. The Honky Tonk Man (with Jimmy Hart). The Mouth of the South finally got what he deserved. After bad officiating cost Roberts the match at 7:04, Roberts destroyed The Honky Tonk Man's guitar by smashing it on the ringpost. A frightened Honky Tonk ran out of the ring, leaving Hart all by him-



Hulk Hogan gains the upper hand on Andre the Giant. In what may have been his greatest victory, Hogan cleanly pinned Andre for the Giant's first-ever loss.

self. Alice Cooper then took Roberts' boa constrictor, Damien, out of the bag as Jake grabbed Hart from behind. Roberts threw a horrified Hart to the mat and then grabbed Damien and threw the snake on top of him. Hart screamed and ran away, but he had lived his worst nightmare.

The Killer Bees vs. Nikolai Volkoff & The Iron Sheik. And, direct from the UWF, here's Hacksaw Jim Duggan! While Volkoff sang the Russian national anthem, Duggan ran down the aisle yielding a big stick with an American flag attached, grabbed the microphone, and said a few words of his own. The patriotic Duggan stood guard at ringside during the match but couldn't control himself any longer when The Iron Sheik placed Brunzell in a camel clutch. Duggan hit the Sheik in the back of the head and the referee called for a disqualification at 5:44.

Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant. The reason why there were 93,173 people in the Silverdome. Nobody could

have walked away disappointed after Hogan scored his greatest victory ever, an amazing clean pinfall at 12:01, marking the first time Andre had ever been pinned. The Silverdome shook from the rafters as Hogan made his way into the ring and things only heated up after the match began. Andre was in complete control from the start and almost had Hogan pinned after only a few seconds had elapsed. But Andre, obviously burdened by his age and excessive weight, couldn't finish off the determined Hogan. Realizing that he would have to mount one final offensive to save his title, Hogan, summoned up every ounce of energy and courage to pick up the 525-pound Andre and bodyslam him to the mat, certainly one of the most incredible feats of strength in wrestling history. With Andre unable to get up, Hogan delivered a legdrop and pinned the Giant's shoulders to the mat. Suddenly, in just three pats of the referee's hand, one legend had come to an end and another had grown even larger. □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

Andre's reputation was the only threat to Hogan this night; reputations can't wrestle. Neither can Andre.

Incomparable abilities create the illusion of invincibility. Thus, most professional athletes are stubborn. With the passing of time, as their talents shrink, what remains is clung to with maddening desperation. Tremendous amounts of money exacerbate the problem. And why shouldn't it? Why shouldn't Andre—and Larry Holmes, Sugar Ray Leonard, George Foreman, etc.—return to the ring if they can pocket a fast couple of million for one night's work? I'll tell you why they shouldn't ... because they look like bleeping morons. If any fan can name a creature living or dead, real or mythological, actual or imagined, that looks stupider than Andre the Giant does moving around the ring, I'll send them a *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* gym bag and five bucks. No kidding. Send entries to The Giant Idiot/P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Artists' renditions welcome.

At one point during WrestleMania III, I turned to Matt Brock with a question—we sat that afternoon in the last row of the Silverdome, miles from the ring—but one glance at his astonished face forced me to withdraw. Isn't this great? I was about to ask—meaning the crowd, the hoopla, the continued growth of pro wrestling—but one look at Matt Brock told me things weren't so great. Matt is from an era long gone, one with which I can understand but not identify. The nostalgia of pro wrestling conjurs seedy visions of smoke-filled arenas, crooked promoters, and fat, unsightly participants. Today, the sport is streamlined: conditioned athletes, modern travel, generous

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promoters ... yeah right! Remarkably, little has changed about the sport since Matt Brock's prime. Wrestlers are still abused, without benefits or pensions. Except today the slice of the pie that they are denied is much bigger than it used to be.

WrestleMania is a good idea for one reason: It focuses the nation's attention to the sport, reminding everyone how exciting pro wrestling is. My colleagues criticize the attention, pointing out many fans in attendance at the Silverdome were there out of curiosity, and not true aficionados of the sport. Great! What better way to arouse interest in the casual fan than to entice him through some gargantuan promotion? I just wish the WWF could have come up with a more suitable main event to top the card.

Some random thoughts on the card: Danny Davis the referee was despicable, a monument to all that is wrong with professional wrestling. Davis the wrestler is not such a bad guy ... I don't know why all the midget wrestlers got so mad at King Kong Bundy. He warned them in advance what he would do if one of them got in his way. And we all know Bundy is a man of his word ... Junkyard Dog is slugscum. Not only did he refuse to get on his knees and bow to King Race, the coward hit Race over the head with a chair when his back was turned ... The fact that Brutus Beefcake didn't even attempt to straighten things out with Greg Valentine and then came back to help Roddy Piper beat Adrian Adonis indicates to me that his attack against "The Hammer" was premeditated ... In my book, Randy Savage is still Intercontinental champion. For the amount of time he had Steamboat pinned while the referee was supposedly unconscious, I could have come down from my seat and made the count myself. ☐

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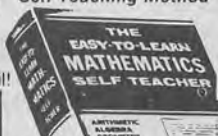
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NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 20)



Not only is Missy Hyatt incredibly attractive, Rosenbaum writes, she is also entertaining. He is glad that Hyatt is coming to the WWF, where she will get wider recognition.

on their side. Don't believe it. Hulk Hogan knows only one side: his side. His allegiance is to the almighty dollar. The man is an awful role model and it's a shame that our nation's youth idolizes him so much. I truly feel this way.

Missy Hyatt is one of the people who makes wrestling worth watching. In fact, for a long time, Missy was the best reason I could think of for watching wrestling. She's beautiful, blonde, shapely (busty), and has legs that just don't end. She complains, she whines, she cheats, and she's always entertaining. I'm glad she's coming to the WWF. It means I'll get to see her more.

This may sound trite, but this is my column, and no, Stu, you can't edit this out: I can't stand pointing. I absolutely go out of my skin when The Midnight Rockers, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Barry Windham, and others

point at the camera, either on television or for photos that appear in our magazines. Why do these guys point? What does it mean? Why can't they do something else? Didn't their mothers ever tell them that it's not polite to point? This really bothers me and I'm sure it bothers their mothers as well. I might be out of my mind, but just stop pointing at me!

We all have our opinions about wrestling announcers. Well, here are mine. Vince McMahon has a great voice and he's pretty funny, but he lies. Gene Okerlund also has a great voice and a good sense of humor, but is too biased toward the good guys. I don't see why everybody thinks David Crockett is so bad. Tony Schiavone is so non-descript, I have no opinion about him. I guess he's okay. Lance Russell is a superstar, by far the best announcer in the sport. Joe Pedicino is genuine and a real professional. Gordon Solie gets on my nerves. Jesse Ventura is tremendous, the funniest man in wrestling. As for Jim Ross, well, just give me the earplugs.

The UWF has the most entertaining wrestling, followed by Mid-Southern, World Championship, and WWF. There's always something good going on in the UWF and the wrestlers are excellent. The Mid-Southern area is always coming up with new, exciting wrestlers. I don't know how they do it. On the bad side, the AWA is unwatchable. Continental is an absolute bore. I've never seen a good World Class match.

And just a few more things to toss out: Randy Savage is one of my favorites to watch... I still haven't seen anything to match those Fantastics-Sheepherders matches of last year... I'll never understand what's so great about Ted DiBiase... Vince McMahon is an absolute genius. He's brought the sport into the 20th century... Dusty Rhodes makes me feel nauseated... Fans of The Rock 'n' Roll Express are idiots... And Dark Journey, I like watching you, too. □

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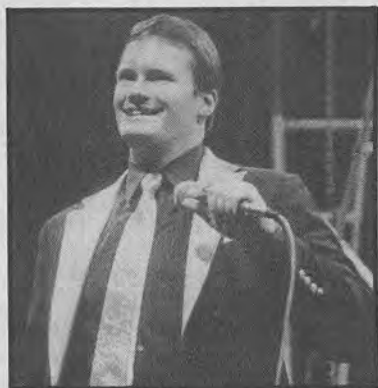
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January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Awards Poll

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

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December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

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August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A. Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

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October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

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December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

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April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

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MIKE ROTUNDO

(Continued from page 37)

tag team champion executed a perfect sunset flip from the turnbuckles, scored a pinfall, and added a prestigious singles championship to his impressive title roster.

"Things couldn't have worked out better for me," Rotundo said. "Wrestling in Florida was always my first choice. But I had to go to the area that could best serve my needs. But now that Florida and Crockett are together, I can have my cake and eat it too, so to say. I can wrestle where I want, yet still get the competition that I need."

The same is true of other Florida wrestlers, most of whom are very excited about their future prospects. Scott Hall, who began his career in the World Championship area before finding success in the AWA and now Florida, says he is looking forward to the challenge. "For the first time in my career, I'll be wrestling top stars night after night," he said. "This is what it's all about. Like Flair says, you have to beat the best to be the best."

Jim Garvin, who has spent a lot of time in Florida during his career, thinks he and his brother Ronnie could

make a serious run at the Florida tag team title. "The Garvins love a new challenge," he said. "As far as we're concerned, Florida is the place to be right now. It seems I got back together with Ronnie just in time. Those belts are gonna look real good around our waists, aren't they?"

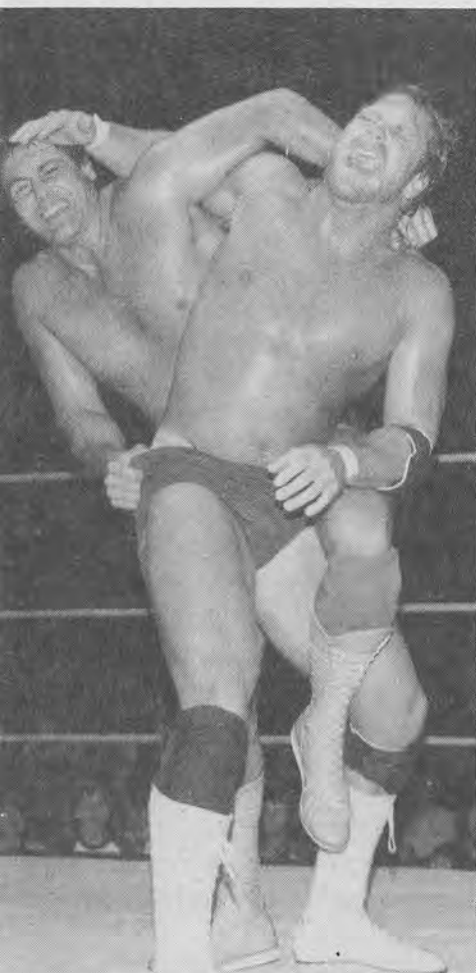
One of the biggest WCW stars, Dusty Rhodes, is already well-known to Floridians. "The Dream" spent years in Florida, feuding against men like Kevin Sullivan, Superstar Billy Graham, and Ivan Koloff. "Lemme tell ya," Rhodes said. "If that nasty Kevin Sullivan thinks The Dream has lost a step, he'll find out the hard way that it just ain't true."

The Florida takeover presents many intriguing possibilities, not the least of which is an occasional return to the Sunshine State by Lex Luger. When Flair comes to Florida, it is a safe bet that Luger and the rest of The Four Horsesmen will not be far behind. Of course, the fan are going to find a different Lex Luger than the one who left in January.

But regardless of how the fans feel about Luger, most of them are certain



Rotundo, who says he is happy to be back where he achieved fame, sizes up "The Bull" (above) and applies an abdominal stretch (opposite page).



to be pleased with the new promotion. Typical of the fans' early reaction was a letter sent to us by Daniel L. Jackson of Jacksonville:

Jim Crockett Promotions' Invasion of Jacksonville, Florida, has produced crowds not seen in these parts for 20 years. Combining the established superstars of World Championship Wrestling with the young rising stars of Championship Wrestling From Florida was a stroke of pure genius. The future of wrestling here is so bright, we Florida fans have gotta wear shades.

The Florida takeover is seen as a major step forward for the National Wrestling Alliance, which lost a measure of prestige when the World Class Wrestling Association declared independence in February 1986. While Florida did not actually leave the NWA, its association with Crockett Promotions had weakened in recent months, which weakened the strength of the NWA as a whole. A powerful NWA is vital in the alliance's ongoing battle against Vince McMahon and the WWF. □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

couldn't have walked away disappointed. The wrestlers, obviously keyed up by the magnitude of the event and the record crowd, performed at incredible levels of intensity. With the exception of maybe a couple of bouts, any of them could have been a main event based on the levels of energy spent and excitement generated.

As pleased as I was with the card, I couldn't help feeling a little depressed at the end when Andre was being wheeled off in the mobile mini-ring. As Hogan posed for the crowd and drank in their adulation, he pointed his finger at the champion and said "I'll be back." The sad truth is that Andre the Giant wasn't there to begin with. Not the Andre the Giant of old. This Andre had size and nothing else. Seconds after the opening bell, Andre almost scored a freak pinfall when Hogan lost his balance trying to perform a bodyslam. The referee's hand appeared to hit the mat a third time, though Hogan did manage to kick out, and the match continued. Andre maintained the upper hand against the stunned champion, but he couldn't do anything with his advantage. Quickly it became apparent that he was not physically equipped to move in and attack the stunned champion. With Hogan flat on the canvas on several occasions, all it would have taken were a few big splashes for the challenger to finish him off.

I predicted Andre would win based on the intangibles. I was aware that he had declined over the past few years, but I thought he would be driven to one more great outing. I was wrong. As willing as the spirit was, the flesh was just too weak.

We can argue forever how Andre in his prime would have fared against Hogan, but the point is irrelevant. "Dream Matches" are best

kept on the pages of *Wrestling Superstars*. Andre should have gotten his WWF World title match 10 years ago. Even five years ago he would have had a chance. Today, he is a mere shell—a large shell—of his former self.

I think back to October of 1980 when Muhammad Ali, two years removed from the sport he had once ruled, came out of retirement to challenge Larry Holmes, a champion in the prime of his boxing life. Ali managed to convince many people that he had the heart to win the title a fourth time. It took about a half a round for everyone—Ali included—to realize that a 38-year-old heart could not make a 38-year-old body perform a miracle. It was sad for everyone—Holmes included—to see the legend take such a horrible beating.

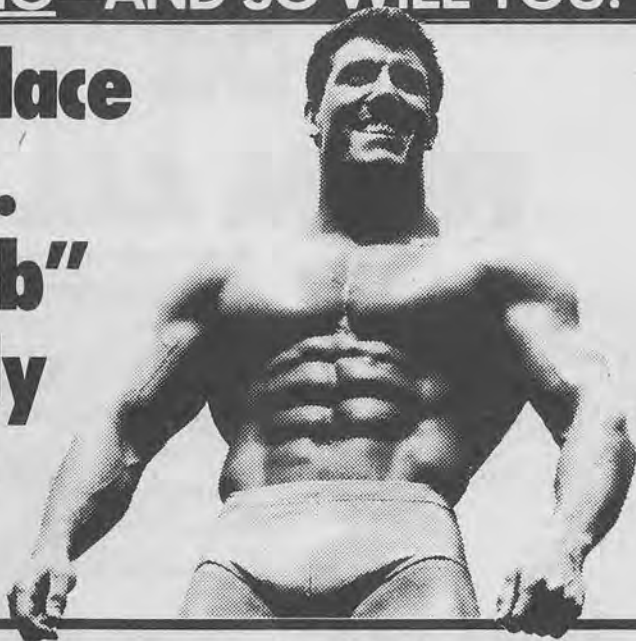
But there is a big difference between these two scenarios. Ali had nothing to prove. He had won the world title three times before. In 15 years of wrestling in the United States, Andre had seen eight different wrestlers strap on the WWF World title belt, while he had never even been given the opportunity. In his mind, his career, as great as it had been, would not be complete until he had his chance, too.

So desperate was he for the title match that he risked his lifelong winning streak, and probably more important, his relationship with the fans by joining with Bobby Heenan and forcing Hogan into the match. I couldn't help feel sorry for the man when it was all over. With millions of people watching, all he could give was half of what he once was. I hope he isn't remembered for that one match and I hope he doesn't make the mistake of trying to redeem himself by coming back. Let history remember him for his greatness, not for a desperate stab at a hopeless dream. □

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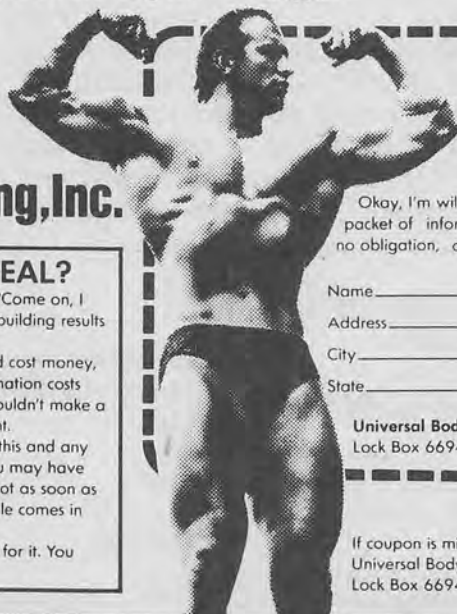
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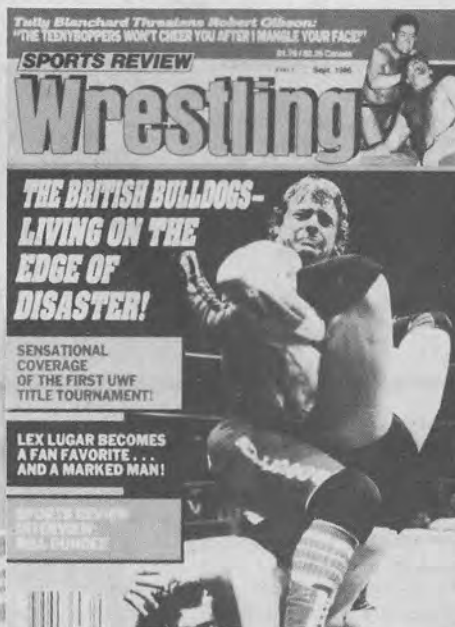
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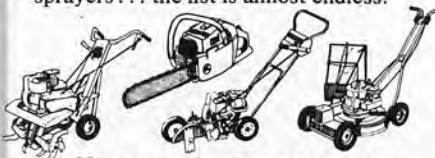
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